INDEX

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TRAVANCORE

25599

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

VOL. V.

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TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

25th July 1924, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th August 1924, and 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th September 1924.

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TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

DEWAN BAHADUR T. RAGHAVIAH PANTULU GARU, B. A., C. S. I.

Dewan of Travancore.

Members.

1. Mr. S. Adam Sait, [*Commerce and Industries* (South).]
2. Mr. I. C. Chacko, B. A., B. Sc. [*Director of Industries.*]
3. M. R. Ry. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai Avargal. [*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala* (General Rural).]
4. Mr. Paul V. Daniel, B. A., B. L. [*Agastisvaram* (General Rural).]
5. M. R. Ry. R. Dhanukoti Pillai Avargal, B. A. (Oxon.) [*Conservator of Forests.*]
6. Mr. K. George, B. A. [*Financial Secretary to Government.*]
7. M. R. Ry. A. Govinda Menon Avargal, B. A. [*Alangad* cum *Parur* (General Rural).]
8. M. R. Ry. K. Govinda Pillai Avargal, B. A. [*Ag. Excise Commissioner.*]
9. Mr. A. Hoogewerf. [*Nominated.*]
10. Mr. M. K. Khadir Pillai. [*Nominated.*]
11. M. R. Ry. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai Avargal. [*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur* (General Rural).]
12. M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Nominated* (Deputy President).]
13. M. R. Ry. S. Krishna Aiyar Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli* (General Rural).]
14. M. R. Ry. R. Krishna Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Chief Secretary to Government.*]
15. M. R. Ry. R. K. Krishna Pillai Avargal, B. A. [*Ag. Commissioner of Police.*]
16. M. R. Ry. N. Kumaran Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Nominated.*]
17. M. R. Ry. T. Kumara Pillai Avargal, [*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod* (General Rural).]
18. Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman. [*Muvattupuzha* (General Rural).]
19. M. R. Ry. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai Avargal. [*Chirayinkil* (General Rural).]
20. The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli. [*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad* (General Rural).]

21. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan, B. A., M. B. C. M., M. R. C. P., M. R. C. S., D. P. H. [*Darbar Physician.*]
22. M. R. Ry. T. Lakshmana Pillai Avargal, B. A. [*Nominated.*]
23. Mr. John Mackie. [*Planters.*]
24. M. R. Ry. M. R. Madhava Variar Avargal, B. A., LL. B. [*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta* (General Rural).]
25. Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai, B. A. [*Commerce and Industries* (North).]
26. M. R. Ry. P. K. Narayana Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Ambalapuzha* (General Rural).]
27. M. R. Ry. K. V. Natesa Aiyar Avargal, B. A., B. E. [*Chief Engineer.*]
28. Mr. J. John Nidiry, B. A., B. L. [*Changanachery* cum *Minachil* (General Rural).]
29. M. R. Ry. M. N. Pillai Avargal, L. M. & S. (Homeo.) [*Trivandrum* (General Urban).]
30. M. R. Ry. N. Padmanabha Pillai Avargal, Bar-at-law, [*Karunagapalli* (General Rural).]
31. Mr. Joseph Panjikaran, B. A., B. L. [*Shertallai* (General Rural).]
32. M. R. Ry. S. Paramesvara Aiyar Avargal, M. A., B. L. [*Secretary to Government* (Secretary to the Legislative Council).]
33. M. R. Ry. Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai Avargal B. A., B. L. [*Tiruvalla* (General Rural).]
34. M. R. Ry. G. Paramesvaran Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Neyyattinkara* (General Rural).]
35. M. R. Ry. K. Paramesvaran Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. Sc. [*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries.*]
36. M. R. Ry. P. Paramesvaran Avargal. [*Nominated.*]
37. M. R. Ry. L. R. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran Avargal. [*Edavagai* (Edavagais and Political Pensioners).]
38. M. R. Ry. M. Raja Raja Varma Avargal, M. A., B. L. [*Devaswom Commissioner.*]
39. M. R. Ry. N. Ramakrishna Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur* (General Rural).]
40. M. R. Ry. C. Ramankunju Avargal. [*Nominated.*]
41. M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar Avargal, M. A. [*Principal, Training College and College of Arts.*]
42. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson, [*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner.*]
43. M. R. Ry. C. Sankara Menon Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Quilon* (General Rural).]
44. Mr. J. Stephenson, B. Sc. [*Ag. Director of Public Instruction.*]
45. M. R. Ry. V. Subba Aiyar Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil.*]

46. M. R. Ry. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar Avargal, B. A. [*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah* (General Rural).]
47. Mr. P. T. Thomas [*Kottayam* (General Rural.)]
48. Mr. K. Dominic Tomman. [*Peermade* cum *Devicolam.*]
49. M. R. Ry. Trivikramar Vasudevar Avargal [*Jenmies.*]
50. M. R. Ry. T. K. Velu Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad* (General Rural).]

Co-opted Members.

1. M. R. Ry. M. Govindan Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Second Judge, Trivandrum*] (For the purpose of the Travancore Ezhava Bill.)
2. M. R. Ry. M. Subrahmanya Pillai Avargal, [For the purpose of the Nanjanad Vellala Bill.]
3. M. R. Ry. M. Udayavarma Raja Avargal B. A. [For the purpose of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill.]
4. M. R. Ry. A. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran Avargal, [For the purpose of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill.]

TRAVANCORE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

VOLUME V.

SECOND SESSION, 1099.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, 25th July, 1924.

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-five of the Clock with the President in the Chair.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members were sworn in:—

1. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan, B. A., M. B. C. M., M. R. C. P., M. R. C. S., D. P. H. *(Darbar Physician.)*
2. M. R. Ry. K. V. Natesa Aiyar Avl., B. A., B. E. *(Chief Engineer.)*
3. „ K. Govinda Pillai Avl., B. A. *(Ag. Excise Commissioner.)*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

Smuggling through the Arukutty Chowkey.

1. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : With reference to the answer to question No. 7, asked on the 12th Tulam, 1099, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have passed orders on the report of the Excise Commissioner regarding the smuggling of cocoanut oil through the Arukutty chowkey, and, if so, what?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner's report has been received and perused by the Government. It has been recorded, no further action being called for.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : അറുക്കുറ്റിയിൽക്കൂടി എത്ര വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയാണ് കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ളത്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : എഴുപത്തിരണ്ടു വീപ്പ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : മാനിഫെസ്റ്റിൽ എത്ര വീപ്പ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയാണ് കൊള്ളിച്ചിരുന്നത്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അൻപത്തൊന്നു വീപ്പ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ആ അവസരത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയ്ക്കു എത്രരൂപാ വിലവരും ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : പതിനായിരം രൂപാ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ ഇങ്ങനെ വ്യാജമായികൊണ്ടു പോകുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ അതിനെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചാൽ പിഴ ഒടുക്കുന്നതിനുപുറമെ അതിനെ കണ്ടുകെട്ടാൻകൂടി നിയമം നിർബന്ധിക്കുന്നില്ലേ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : ഇല്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ എന്തുകൊണ്ട് അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തില്ല?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ യുക്തംപോലെ ചെയ്യും. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ അങ്ങനെ

ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു തോന്നാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനുള്ള വകുപ്പു് ഏതാണു്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതു് ലാൻഡ്കസ്റ്റംസ് റഗുലേഷൻ ൨൨-ാം വകുപ്പു ബി ഖണ്ഡപ്രകാരമുള്ള കുററമാണു്. അതിനുള്ള ശിക്ഷ ൩൭-ാം വകുപ്പു ൧-ാം ഖണ്ഡത്തിൽ ക്ലിപ്തപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): വ്യാജമായി കൊണ്ടുപോയ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ എപ്പോഴാണു് കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചതു്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചതു് ൧൦൯൧ മകരം ൨൪-ാനു-യാണു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): വിടാൻ ഉത്തരവു കൊടുത്തതു്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ൧൦൯൧ കുംഭം ൧-ാനു.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അസിസ്റ്റൻറു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പററിയുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടും അതു സംബന്ധമായുള്ള റിക്കാർഡുകളും അപ്പോഠം എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർക്കയച്ചുകൊടുത്തുവോ? അവ എപ്പോഠം കമ്മീഷണർക്കു കിട്ടി?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ൧൦൯൧ കുംഭം ൨൬-ാനു കിട്ടി. അതിനുമുമ്പാണു് വിട്ടുവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ റിക്കാർഡുകഠം സ്ഥലം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ അയയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാൻ കമ്മീഷണരെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചതെന്താണ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): കക്ഷിയും വക്കീലും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ അടുക്കൽ വന്നു സങ്കടം പറഞ്ഞു. വക്കീലിൻെറ വാദം കേട്ടതിനുശേഷം വിട്ടുവിച്ചു.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെയാണോ ഗവർൺമെൻറു സാധാരണമായി ചെയ്തുവരാറുള്ളതു്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അങ്ങനേയും ചെയ്യാറുണ്ടു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): വേറെ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതിനുത്തരം ഇപ്പോൾ പറവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഉത്തരവയച്ചതു് കമ്പിമുഖാന്തരമാണോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതെ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനുള്ള കാരണമെന്തു?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതു വളരെ വിശ്വാസയോഗ്യതയുള്ള ഒരു കമ്പനിയായിരുന്നു. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു കമ്പനിക്കു് അനാവശ്യനഷ്ടമുണ്ടാകരുതെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്താലാണു് അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ കമ്പനിക്കാർ ഏതാനും വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ തീരുവ തീർത്തും ഏതാനും വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ തീരുവ തീർക്കാതെയും അതിനു മുമ്പു പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മീഷണർ റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ഉണ്ടു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു കമ്പനിക്കു എന്തു വിശ്വാസയോഗ്യതയാണു് ഉള്ളതു്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): മാന്യസ്ഥിതിയിലുള്ളതും അതുക്കുറിച്ചവുക്കയിൽ കൊല്ലമൊന്നിനു് ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപാവരെ തീരുവതീക്കുന്നതുമായ ഒരു കമ്പനിയായിരുന്നു അതു് എന്നു് അസിസ്റ്റൻറു് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരും പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നു.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെ തീരുവ തീർത്തും തീർക്കാതെയും സാമാനങ്ങൾ കടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന ഒരു കമ്പനിയെപ്പറ്റി ഇങ്ങനെ ഗൌനിച്ചാൽ മതിയോ? അതാണോ ഇവിടത്തെ നയം?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതഭിപ്രായത്തെ ആസ്പദമാക്കിയുള്ള ഒരു ചോദ്യമാണു്. അതിനുത്തരം പറവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെ പലപ്പോഴും തീരുവ തീർക്കാതെ കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ള വിവരം ഗവർൺമെൻറിനറിയാമോ ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അറിയാം.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെകൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ള തുകയെന്താണ്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അഞ്ചുതവണയായിട്ട് ൭൩൨ രൂപാ ൧൫ ചക്രം ൱ കാശു തീരുവ തീർക്കേണ്ട സാമാനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാം.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കാൻ എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ആ തീരുവ ഈടാക്കീട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഒരു കച്ചവടക്കാരൻ ന്യായമായ തീരുവ തീർക്കാതെ സാമാനം കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതായാൽ അപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതാണോ ഇവിടത്തെ നിയമം?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതിനെപ്പററി മേലന്വേഷണം നടത്തുവാനാലോചനയുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ൪൪-ാം വകുപ്പിലെ വ്യവസ്ഥപ്രകാരം പ്രായശ്ചിത്തം അടച്ചു തീർന്നതിനുശേഷംമാത്രമേ സാമാനം വിടാൻ പാടുള്ളു എന്നു നിർബന്ധമുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): പിഴ ഒടുക്കിയതിനു ശേഷം വേണം സാമാനം വിട്ടയയ്ക്കാൻ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*); ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ അതിനു വിപരീതമായി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൻെറ കാരണമെന്താണ്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതു വിശദമാക്കണമെന്നു എക്സൈസു കമ്മീഷണരെ അറിയിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറധികൃതന്മാർ ചെയ്യുന്ന റിപ്പോർട്ടുകളെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കയോ ണോ ഗവർൺമെൻറു ചെയ്തുവരാറുള്ളതു്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അങ്ങനേയും ചെയ്തുവരാറുണ്ട്.

[President.]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെ വേറെ ഒരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തം പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): തൽകാലം പറവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ കച്ചവടക്കാൎക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ച പ്രായശ്ചിത്തം എപ്പോഴാണു് ഈടാക്കിയതു്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ൧൦൯൭ കൎക്കടകം ൩൨-ാനു-യാണു് കേസ് തീൎച്ച ചെയ്തതു്. അപ്പോളീടാക്കിയിരിക്കും.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനു റവന്യൂ റിക്കവറി റഗുലേഷൻെറ സഹായം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അറിവില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ കച്ചവടക്കാർ ൧,൦൦൦ രൂപാ പിഴ ഒടുക്കണമെന്നു അക്രൂക്കറി അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മീഷണർ റിപ്പോൎട്ടു ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ഉണ്ടു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): പിന്നെ എന്തുകൊണ്ടു് അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തില്ല?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അതു നിയമപ്രകാരം ശരിയല്ല. പരമാവധിയായി ഈടാക്കാവുന്ന പിഴ ൫൦൦ രൂപാ മാത്രമാണു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനുള്ള വകുപ്പു് ഏതാണു്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ൩൫-ാം വകുപ്പു ൧-ാം ഖണ്ഡം.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കളവുകളും അവ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാനുള്ള ചിലവുകളും കസ്റ്റംസ് ഇനത്തിലുള്ള വരവിനെ ക്ഷയിപ്പിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിനറിയാമോ?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion and you cannot put a question with regard to a matter of opinion.

Smuggling of Cocoanut oil.

2. Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Will the Government be pleased to state what action was taken by them regarding the smuggling of cocoanut oil, etc., through the Arukutty chowkey and on the report submitted by the Excise Commissioner thereon?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 1.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there was any special reason for the Excise Commissioner to use his discretion in this particular case?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : There was no special reason.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Any special circumstances?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : There was no special circumstance except that, in the Excise Commissioner's opinion, the firm happened to be a very respectable one.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Will the Government be pleased to state what the action taken by the Government was after going through all the records of this case before it was disposed of?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : I have already given my answer to this with reference to the supplementary questions put by Mr. Kumara Pillai.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have passed any orders on the papers?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Will they be pleased to state the nature of the order?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The nature of the order has been mentioned in the answer.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is simply said that the Excise Commissioner's report has been received and perused by the Government and that it has been recorded, no further action being called for.

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government find that the action taken by the Excise Commissioner is in order.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Have they found out the several irregularities in this particular case?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : There have been one or two minor irregularities and they are being pointed out to him. So far as the main decision is concerned, there has been no irregularity and so no further action has been taken.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But do they not think, after the supplementary questions put by Mr. Kumara Pillai, that there were many irregularities in the case?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): These supplementary questions have not brought out any more facts than what are already on record and what the Government know. All the facts are before the Government.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*). Mr. Kumara Pillai just said that, before the Commissioner received the communication of the Assistant Commissioner, the casks were released. Why should he release them before he got all the papers in connection with the case?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): As a judicial officer it was competent to him to do so.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is that usually the case in the Excise Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have already answered that with reference to the supplementary question of Mr. Kumara Pillai.

Pathways through the Attingal Cutcherry Compound.

3. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that private persons occupying lands adjacent to the Attingal Cutcherry compound are using the same compound as pathway to their respective houses?

(*b*) Was a certain occupant forced by the Peishkar to execute, as the result of a memorial, a registered agreement to the effect that his gateway opening on the Attingal cutcherry compound would be closed whenever the Government required it?

(*c*) Will the Government consider the urgent necessity of closing all the pathways of private persons through the cutcherry compound in which several record rooms, *e. g.*, the Sub-Registrar's office, two Munsiffs' Courts, the Magistrate's Court and the Taluk office, are located?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that the Director of Registration has submitted a report explaining the urgency of closing all these private pathways or of walling up the Sub-Registrar's office?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A *poramboke* case was taken against one of the neighbours for trespassing on the cutcherry compound; and as the result thereof, the party has agreed to close his entrance when called upon to do so.

(*c*) The matter will be considered.

(*d*) Yes, in 1917.

College Admissions.

4. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): (*a*) Is it a fact that many students were denied admission in the College of Science, Trivandrum?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the names and number of applicants both in the Intermediate and the B. A. classes; and

(ii) the names and number of students admitted?

(*c*) What will be the average additional expenditure per annum on account of the bifurcation of the College?

(*d*) How many students can be accommodated as per the report of the Accommodation Committee?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) and (*b*) A statement* furnishing the information required by the member is laid on the table. Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by furnishing the names of the applicants and of those who have been admitted.

(*c*) The member is referred to G. O. Dis. No. 592 of 24/Legis. E, dated the 22nd June, 1924, published at page 365 of the Education Sheet of the *Government Gazette* dated the 24th June, 1924, which contains information in regard to the additional expenditure sanctioned in connection with the bifurcation of the College and the provision on account of the increases in strength. The total additional expenditure cannot be known until the expiry of the current academic year.

(*d*) Junior Intermediate class	...	238	in the Science and Arts Departments together.
Junior B. A. class	...	272	

English Professorship.

5. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the applicants for the Professorship of English in the College of Arts or of Science, with their qualifications, age, service and nativity?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government intend calling back Mr. K. B. Ramanathan for the above post, and, if so, the reason for the same?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) No application for a Professorship in English has been received from any one.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Papers re. Election of President for Attingal Municipality.

6. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): (*a*) Are the Government in receipt of the papers in connection with the new presidential election in the attingal Municipality?

(*b*) Were those papers sent to the Government, by the Vice-President in charge, direct or through the Dewan Peishkar?

(*c*) At what stage is the matter now?

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* *Vide* appendix I—page 14.

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Vice-President in charge reported direct to the Government the result of the election on the 23rd Medam, 1099. The Division Peishkar reported on the 17th Edavam, 1099, that no petition was received by him contesting the validity of the election.

(*c*) The result of the election has been approved and consequential orders have issued.

Kattippanam.

7. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Have the Government enquired into the allegations referred to at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in August, 1923, by Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai about *Kattippanam*, and, if so, what are the results of the enquiry?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to his question No. 338 [350] asked on the 9th June, 1924, as regards an enquiry into the matter made by the Government in 1921. No fresh enquiry was ordered in view of the contemplated introduction, from 1100 M. E., of the independent shop system in the area in question.

Appointment of Headmasters in certain Schools.

8. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any recommendations have been received from the Director of Public Instruction regarding the appointment of Headmasters of the English High Schools at Alleppey, Muvattupuzha and Martandam which are proposed to be raised into complete High Schools;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have ascertained from the Director the grounds for the recommendations made;

(*c*) whether the teachers recommended are senior in service to others and are qualified in all other respects to be appointed as Headmasters;

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that there are qualified non-Brahmins in the department who have put in longer service;

(*e*) whether they are aware that non-Brahmin communities are inadequately represented in the Education Department; and

(*f*) if so, whether they will do justice to non-Brahmin teachers in connection with the filling of the vacancies of Headmasters that are now pending before them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) to (*d*) and (*f*) Government have sanctioned the appointment

of Messrs. C. Raman Pillai, B. A., L. T., A. J. John, B. A., L. T., and A. Narayanan Tampi, B. A. (Oxon.), as Headmasters on probation in the three new High Schools. The former two are senior first grade teachers eligible for promotion as Headmasters.

(e) The member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 226 [362] asked by Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar on the 19th January, 1924.

Transfer of Teachers to their native Places.

9. MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): (a) In view of the low pay of the teachers of vernacular schools and the present cost of living, will the Government be pleased to direct the Inspector and the Inspectress of vernacular schools to transfer as many teachers as possible, especially women, to their native villages and towns or to centres as near such places as possible?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to require the inspecting agency to record reasons in future for effecting transfers in violation of the principle above indicated?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) and (b) The Inspector of Vernacular Schools and the Inspectress of Girls' Schools have already received the necessary instructions in the matter. (*Vide* the Director's Circular* No. VII, dated the 22nd April, 1915, a copy of which is laid on the table.) Government do not consider that any further instructions are necessary.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to answer how many transfers have been effected by the Inspector and Inspectress of Vernacular Schools in violation of Circular No. VII of 1915?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no statistics before them; but if the member requires, they will be called for.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have the Government any means of ascertaining the reasons underlying transfers of teachers in violation of the aforesaid circular?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware whether any transfers have been effected at all in violation of the rules.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In the cirumstances, would it not be desirable from the standpoint of the Government that the Inspector and the Inspectress should be required to record their reasons for transferring teachers in violation of the said circular?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Under the circular it will be seen that "all teachers applying for transfers to schools at or near their native villages should, to the extent possible, have their request granted except in cases where there is reason to fear that transfers to native places may prove detrimental to the interests of the schools." The reason assigned in that circular can be the only reason

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* *Vide* appendix II—page 15.

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

for transferring teachers in violation of the general principle enunciated therein.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are not the Government raising a conclusive presumption in favour of the Inspector and the Inspectress of schools when they presume that transfers would only be effected in conformity with the circular?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is a presumption that they may make in favour of the officers of Government until it is disproved.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is there no possibility that the Inspector and the Inspectress may misbehave occasionally?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If any such instance is brought to the notice of the Government, proper notice will be taken.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it not desirable that the Inspector and the Inspectress should be required to record their reasons for transfers?

MR. S. PARMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government do not consider it necessary.

Transfer of Teachers to their native Places.

10. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) In view of the low pay of the teachers of vernacular schools and the present cost of living, will the Government be pleased to direct the Inspector and the Inspectress of vernacular schools to transfer as many teachers as possible, especially women, to their native villages and towns or to centres as near such places as possible?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to ask the inspecting agency to record reasons in future for effecting transfers in violation of the principle above indicated?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 9.

Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill.

11. MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOILTAMPURAN (*Edavagai*): Will the Government be pleased to place on the table copies of the several petitions, protests and criticisms they have received from the public at large on the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill now under consideration in the Council?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): As the petitions are too voluminous to be printed and circulated, they have been made available in original for perusal by the members by being placed in the Chief Secretary's room in the Jubilee Hall premises.

Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill.

12. MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): (*a*) Is it a fact that Government have instructed the official members of the Council to vote in support of the amendment proposed by Mr. V. Subba Aiyar to Clause 22 of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill relating to the exemption of existing non-Nayar marriages from the operation of the said clause?

(*b*) Are the Government aware of the fact that some of the official members have already committed themselves to definite views on the said subject?

(*c*) If it is a fact, will the Government be so good as to disclose the reason for their interference in respect of the said Clause 22?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) and (*c*) Instructions, if any, given by the Government to their officers are, and ought to be treated as, confidential.

(*b*) Government are aware that certain official members have recorded certain views in the report of the Select Committee.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know, without referring to the nature of the instructions that might have been issued by the Government on this particular clause in the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill, whether any instructions have been given to the Government members with respect to that particular clause?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That itself cannot be mentioned. The answer says: "Instructions, if any, given by the Government to their officers are, and ought to be treated as, confidential." Whether any instruction has been given at all Government are not prepared to disclose.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether Mr. Subba Aiyar is in charge of this particular Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill on behalf of the Government?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not in charge of the Bill at all.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has not Mr. Subba Aiyar on a prior occasion said that Government maintain a position of neutrality with respect to the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe it is only a new question and it has nothing to do with the confidential nature of the information given.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The answer to my question is that the instructions, if any, cannot be disclosed.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That being the case, may I know whether, as a matter of fact, any instruction has been issued or not?

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Government are not prepared to disclose whether any instruction has been given and why they are not prepared to disclose it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I simply want to know whether as a fact instruction has been given.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): We are not prepared to disclose.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If you are not prepared, I am thankful to you. (*Laughter.*)

Appendix I.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 4.**

Admissions into the College of Science.

Class.	No. of applications with Group as first choice.	No. of applications with Group as second choice.	No. selected for admission.	No. rejected.
Class I Group I ...	219	5	189	97
„ II ...	191	11	124	
Class II Group I ...	11	...	10	1
„ II ...	12	...	12	...
Class III Group I ...	58	32	62	86
„ II A ...	31	55	35	
„ II B ...	171	17	99	
„ III A ...	45	14	23	
Class IV Group I ...	...	...	...	...
„ II A ...	7	...	7	...
„ II B ...	12	...	12	...

Appendix II.

Vide Answer to Question No. 9.

Circular No. VII of 1915.

Inspecting Officers are requested to effect all transfers of teachers necessary in the interests of the schools or for the convenience of the persons concerned before the end of the current vacation, so that there may not be any occasion to make a transfer during the course of the next school year. Transfers involving change of Range may, if necessary, be recommended to this office. All teachers applying for transfers to schools at or near their native villages should, to the extent possible, have their request granted except in cases where there is reason to fear that transfers to native places may prove detrimental to the interests of the schools.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction, Trivandrum, 22nd April, 1915.

P. RAMASWAMY AIYAR,
For Director of Public Instruction.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by the Government under Section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation, II of 1097.

	Amount.			Remarks.
	Rs.	ch.	c.	
Demand XII – Education.	500	0	0	For the transmission of articles of furniture, equipment, &c., from His Highness the Maha Raja's College to the College of Arts.
Do.	31,167	0	0	On account of the additional expenditure required in connection with the bifurcation of the College.
Demand XV—Medical Department.	288	0	8	To meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the plague observation station at Aramboly.
Demand XX—Public Works Department.	15,000	0	0	For urgent works carried out and in progress in the Arts College and Science College buildings.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): With reference to the answer to the supplementary question to question No. 381 asked by Mr. M. N. Pillai at the meeting of the Council held on the 9th June, 1924, a statement containing the information asked for is laid on the table. (*Vide* Statement subjoined.)

Statement.

A. Statement of graduates appointed as acting teachers in the English and Vernacular Schools for Boys during the last three years.

No.	Name.	Caste or religion.	Whether native of Travancore or not.	Optional Subjects for the B. A. Degree Examination.	Class in which passed and whether Honours or Pass.	Total length of acting period with interruptions, if any, on the 1st Dhanu 1099. Years.	Months	Days.	Remarks.
	A. ENGLISH SCHOOLS.								
1	Mr. M. K. Varghese	Christian.	Travancorean.	History	Pass II Class	2	6	...	
2	„ K. I. Varghese	do.	do.	Philosophy	Honours II do.	2	4	15	
3	„ A. T. George	do.	do.	History	Pass III do.	1	4	...	
4	„ J. Joseph	do.	do.	Do.	Do. II do.	2	6	22	
5	„ K. J. Joseph	do.	do.	Mathematics	Do. II do.	...	5	...	
6	„ P. L. Stephen	do.	do.	Literature	Honours	2	4	...	Resigned.
7	„ K. G. Oommen	do.	do.	History	Pass II do.	2	4	...	
8	„ J. E. Chelladurai	do.	do.	Natural Science	M. A. I do.	1	3	...	
9	„ G. Ramasvami Aiyar	Brahmin	do.	Mathematics	Pass II do.	1	1	15	
10	„ V. S. Vaidyanatha Aiyar	do.	do.	Literature	Honours II do.	1	1	...	
11	„ R. Srinivasa Aiyar	do	do.	History	Pass III do.	1	4	...	
12	„ S. Narayana Aiyar	do.	do.	Mathematics	do. do. do.	1	1	...	
13	„ S. Narayana Aiyar	do.	do.	Physics	do. II do.	1	4	...	
14	„ S. Ramasvami Aiyar	do.	do.	Mathematics	do. I do.	1	1	15	
15	„ S. Sankara Aiyar	do.	do.	Chemistry	do. II do.	...	5	...	
16	„ N. Padmanabha Aiyar	do.	do.	Do.	do. II do.	...	11	15	
17	„ V. Ganapati Aiyar	do.	do.	History	do. II do.	2	5	...	
18	„ S. Krishna Aiyar	do.	do.	Chemistry	do. III do.	1	...	...	
19	„ A. Nilakanta Aiyar	do.	do.	Mathematics	do. I do.	...	5	...	
20	„ V. Lakshminarayana Aiyar	do.	do.	Do.	do. II do.	1	1	15	
21	„ C. Padmanabha Aiyar	do.	do.	Literature	Honours II do.	...	5	...	
22	„ S. Muttusvami Aiyar	do.	do.	Chemistry	Pass II do.	1	2	...	
23	„ M. S. Narayana Aiyar	do.	do.	Mathematics	do II do.	...	4	22	
24	„ R. Subrahmanya Aiyar	do.	do.	Physics	Pass. II do.	1	5	...	
25	„ A. N. Srinivasaraghava Aiyangar	do.	do.	Mathematics	do. I do.	...	5	...	
26	„ T. K. Padmanabha Aiyangar	do.	do.	Chemistry	do. II do.	1	4	22	
27	„ M. Vaidyanatha Aiyar	do.	do.	Do.	do. III do.	1	2	15	
28	„ N. Mahadeva Aiyar	do	do.	Mathematics	do. II do.	1	2	...	

A. Statement of graduates appointed as acting teachers in the English and Vernacular Schools for Boys during the last three years.—*(contd.)*

No.	Name.	Caste or religion.	Whether native of Travancore or not.	Optional Subjects for the B. A. Degree Examination.	Class in which passed and whether Honours or Pass.	Total length of acting period with interruptions, if any, on the 1st Dhanu 1099. Years.	Months.	Days.	Remarks.
	I. A. ENGLISH SCHOOLS.—(contd.)								
29	Mr. C. G. Subrahmanya Aiyar	Brahmin.	Travancorean.	Mathematics	Pass III Class.	1	1	15	
30	„ C. R. Subrahmanya Aiyar	do.	do.	do.	do. II do.	2	..	...	
31	„ A. Krishnasvami Aiyangar	do.	do.	do.	do. II do.	...	4	15	
32	„ K. Rajahamsa Aiyar	do.	do.	Physics	do. III do.	1	2	15	
33	„ S. Ramanatha Aiyar	do.	do.	Mathematics	do. II do.	1	2	...	
34	„ S. Ramanatha Aiyar	do.	do.	History	do. II do.	2	11	...	
35	„ A. Subrahmanya Aiyar	do.	do.	Chemistry	do. III do.	1	2	...	
36	„ V. S. Srinivasan	do.	do.	Natural Science	do. II do.	...	3	15	
37	„ T. K. Karunakara Menon	Nayar.	do.	do.	do. II do.	1	...	...	
38	„ P. Govinda Pillai	do.	do	Mathematics	do. I do.	..	6	...	
39	„ P. N. Raman Pillai	do.	do.	History	Honours.	2	4	...	On other duty.
40	„ K. Gopala Pillai	do.	do.	Mathematics	Pass II do.	1	2	...	
41	„ E. Krishna Pillai	do.	do.	Physics	do. III do.	1	4	...	
42	„ P. Paramesvara Kurup	do.	do.	Mathematics	do. II do.	1	4	...	
43	„ M. K. Padmanabha Pillai	do	do.	Chemistry	do. III do.	1	...	...	
44	„ S. Narayanan Muttatu	do.	do.	Physics	do. II do.	...	5	...	
45	„ P. Achyuta Menon	do.	do.	History	do. II do.	2	6	22	
46	„ M. Raja Raja Varma Tampan	Kshatriya.	do.	Natural Science	do. III do.	1	1	15	
47	„ C. S. Nataraja Pillai	Vellala.	do.	Mathematics	do. II do.	1	5	...	
	B. VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.								
1	Mr. T. N. Jacob	Christian.	do.	History	do. II do	2	5	...	Without interruption
2	„ C. E. Yesudian	do.	do.	do.	do. III do.	...	1	25	
3	„ M. Mahadeva Aiyar	Brahmin.	do.	Mathematics	do. III do.	1	2	...	With interruption
4	„ A. Paramesvaran Pillai	Nayar.	do.	Malayalam	do. II do.	1	11	...	Without interuption.
5	„ T. M. Raman Pillai	do.	do.	do.	do. III do.	...	5	20	do.
6	„ S. A. Somasundaram Pillai	Vellala.	do.	Mathematics	do. III do.	...	5	6	do.

Statement.

B. Statement of graduates confirmed as teachers in the English and Vernacular Schools for Boys during the last three years.

No.	Name.	Caste or religion.	Whether native of Travancore or not.	Optional Subjects for the B. A. Degree Examination.	Class in which passed and whether Honours or Pass.	Total length of acting period with interruption, if any, on the date of confirmation. Years.	Months.	Days.	Remarks.
	A. ENGLISH SCHOOLS.								
1	Mr. P. Charles	Christian	Travancorean	History	Pass II Class	2	3	...	
2	„ P. Philip	do.	do.	do.	Pass	2	3	...	
3	„ K. V. Mathai	do.	do.	do.	do.	2	3	...	
4	„ G. K. Idikula	do.	do.	Physics	do.	2	3	...	
5	„ G. Dennis	do	do.	History	Pass II do.	2	2	...	
6	„ T. C. John	do.	do.	do.	do.	2	2	...	
7	„ M. Geevarghese	do.	do.	do.	do.	2	2	...	
8	„ A. G. Varghese	do	do.	do.	do.	2	...	...	
9	„ M. I. Thomas	do.	do.	do.	M. A.	1	11	..	Resigned.
10	„ M. G. Mathew	do.	do.	Mathematics	Pass.	1	9	...	
11	„ T. T. Korah	do.	do.	History	Pass II Class	1	5	...	Resigned.
12	„ M. Eipe	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	5	...	
13	„ T. C. Kuruvilla	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	2	...	
14	„ Varghese Varghese	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	2	...	
15	„ A. C. Kuriyan	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	2	...	
16	„ K. T. Philip	do.	do.	History	Pass I Class	1	2	...	
17	„ Jacob Devasahayam	do.	do.	Mathematics	do.	...	11	...	Resigned.
18	„ S. K. Sankara Aiyar	Brahmin.	Non-Travancorean	History	Pass	2	3	...	
19	„ N. Ganapati Aiyar	do.	Travancorean	Mathematics	do.	2	2	...	
20	„ V. Raghava Aiyangar	do.	Non-Travancorean	History	Pass II Class	2	2	...	
21	„ S. Easvara Aiyar	do.	Travancorean	do.	do.	2	2	...	
22	„ K. Chidambara Aiyar	do.	do.	do.	Pass III Class	2	2	...	
23	„ R. Muttusvami Aiyar	do.	do.	do.	Honours	2	2	...	
24	„ C. R. Paramesvara Aiyar	do.	Non-Travancorean	Mathematics		2	2	...	
25	„ K. Padmanabha Aiyar	do.	Travancorean	History	Pass II Class	2	2	...	

Statement.

B. Statement of graduates confirmed as teachers in the English and Vernacular Schools for Boys during the last three years.—(*contd.*)

No.	Name.	Caste or religion.	Whether native of Travancore or not.	Optional Subjects of the B. A. Degree Examination.	Class in which passed and whether Honours or Pass.	Total length of acting period with interruptions, if any, on the date of confirmation.			Remarks.
						Years.	Months	Days.	
	A. ENGLISH SCHOOLS.—(contd.)								
26	Mr. P. Ramiah	Brahmin.	Travancorean	Mathematics		1	7	...	
27	,, R. Sundaram Aiyar	do.	do.	do.	Pass II Class	1	7	...	
28	,, S. Tanu Aiyar	do.	do.	do.	Honours	1	9	...	
29	,, S. A. Gopalakrishna Aiyar	do.	do.	do.	Pass II do.	1	9	...	
30	,, P. G. Sundaram Aiyar	do.	Non-Travancorean	do.	Honours	1	2	...	
31	,, K. V. Anantasvami Aiyar	do.	Travancorean	History	Pass II do.	1	2	...	
32	,, S. Dakshinamurti Aiyar	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	2	...	
33	,, T. P. Sundaresa Aiyar	do.	Non-Travancorean	do.	do.	1	2	...	Resigned.
34	,, C. V. Subbarama Aiyar	do.	do.	Mathematics	Honours	1	2	...	
35	,, V. D. Sundara Rajan	do.	do.	do.	Pass II do.	1	2	...	
36	,, K. Sankarasubba Aiyar	do.	do.	do.	do. III do.	1	2	...	
37	,, V. K. Sankunni Pillai	Nayar.	Travancorean	do.	do. II do.	2	2	...	
38	,, C. G. Raman Pillai	do.	do.	History	do. II do.	4	1	...	
39	,, K. Sankara Kaimal	do.	do.	do.	do. do. do.	1	5	...	
40	,, M. Muttusvami	Asari.	do.	do.	Honours	3	...	...	
	B. VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.								
1	,, Joseph K. Mathen	Christian	do.	do.	Pass II do.	...	7	19	
2	,, Mammen A. Cheriyan	do.	do.	do.	do. III do.	10	3	18	
3	,, K. Subrahmanya Sastri	Brahmin.	do.	Mathematics	do. III do.	1	6	...	

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai].

REGULATIONS ASSENTED TO BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHA RAJA.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to the Legislative Council*): I beg to announce that the following Regulations have received the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja on the 10th July, 1924:—

1. The Revenue Recovery Regulation Amendment Regulation, II of 1099.
2. The Travancore Government Securities Regulation, III of 1099.
3. The Travancore High Court Regulation, IV of 1099.
4. The Revenue Summons Regulation Amendment Regulation, V of 1099.
5. The Reformatory Schools Regulation, VI of 1099.
6. The Travancore Majority Regulation, VII of 1099.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE FLOODS.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, before proceeding to the next item on the agenda of to-day's work, I rise to make a request to Government and offer a few observations in support of the same. In view of the most distressing and disheartening information that has been received here with respect to the havoc already played and even now being played by floods in the central and northern parts of Travancore, I am making this request to Government and offering these observations in support thereof.

PRESIDENT: Are you making a request to Government or are you making a motion before the House?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am making a motion before the House. It will appear from reports that have been received that the tracts and basins drained by a number of rivers, namely, the Kallada river, the Kulakkada river, the Pamba river, the Minachil river and the Periyar, have been invaded by the inrush of water and the inhabitants of these regions have been rendered homeless. Dead bodies, houses and much movable property are said to be afloat and people have been reduced to the most miserable condition. Death appears to be at grips with life and the only option left to the surviving population in these regions is to perish either by submersion immediately under water or by the comparatively gradual process of starvation. The precarious survival enjoyed by the remaining population in these regions is a matter of very grave concern and it is very difficult to contemplate the situation with anything like composure. Communications have been cut off; roads have been washed off and bridges broken down by the unprecedented and unparalleled floods experienced

in these parts of Travancore. I understand that not only Central and North Travancore have been affected but that even South Travancore stands the risk of being so affected on a similar scale. Such being the case, we see that the rank and file of the non-official side here has been extremely thinned, and many of the members have, we are told, wired to the President stating their inability to attend this meeting of the Council. The measures that we have to consider, as per the programme, are the amendment of the Nayar Regulation and the annual budget. It is extremely unseemly that the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill, a non-official measure, regarding which—though at the inception Government thought that they had nothing to do, as was gatherable from the utterances of Mr. Subba Aiyar himself, but about which he now says that he is not in a position to disclose what has transpired between the official members and himself, rather between the official members and the Government—should be discussed in the absence of many non-official members who may be seriously interested in the enactment of the measure. It appears to me not quite desirable that we should discuss and pass such a measure in the absence of most of the non-official members.

The other question that has to be considered is equally important—I mean the voting on the annual budget. To my mind, Sir, it appears to be extremely difficult to vote upon the budget for the next year owing to a variety of reasons. First of all, I would point out that it is difficult to estimate the income for the ensuing year in view of what has already transpired in the most productive parts of the State. To what extent remissions will have to be made by Government and to what extent concessions will have to be allowed by Government are questions which it is rather difficult for us to estimate. The nature of the work to be undertaken by the State towards reconstruction in order to bring about the prior situation, is itself a large question. We are practically attempting to pass the budget in ignorance of what has already taken place. In view of these facts, I would press—

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to a provision in the Regulation which makes it absolutely necessary that the budget meeting should be held in Karkatakam and that the voting of the budget should be completed before the end of Karkatakam?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I take that into consideration, certainly.

Sir, with respect to the trouble that we are now facing, I would still further point out that many a member on the official benches will have to be deputed by the Government to proceed to the scene of disaster and to render all possible help to the suffering popoulation. For example, I would point out that in view of what has already happened in the low-lying tracts of Kuttanad, the major portion of which I have the honour and at the same time the misfortune to represent in this Council, and in view of the sundry violation of law and order that is likely to follow the unforeseen accidents in these regions, the presence and direction of an officer like the Commissioner of Police cannot be spared. Again, in the matter of repairing breaches and restoring communications

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

and the homesteads to their normal conditions, the other departmental heads also, will have to be sent out by the Government and authorised to do the needful immediately. No doubt, the passing of the budget is an important item ; but in view of what has transpired, it is absolutely insignificant side by side with the very precarious condition to which people have been reduced by the inundation aforesaid.

In view of these facts, I would request the President to take into consideration the present floods as a matter of urgent importance and of a serious nature; and to move the Government, on behalf of the Council, that such of the officers as may be spared be deputed to proceed to the scene of disaster and render all possible assistance to the suffering population. Therefore I beg to move :—

"In view of the fact that owing to the heavy floods in different parts of Travancore, several members of the Council have not been able to attend the Council to-day and as very important matters such as the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill and the State budget will be taken up for discussion at the meeting, this meeting be adjourned for a week, and three days be allotted for non-official business at the end of the session after the voting of the demands for grants."

PRESIDENT : Will you kindly read it again ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : "In view of the fact that owing to the heavy floods in different parts of Travancore several members of the Council have not been able to attend the Council to-day and as very important measures such as the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill and the State budget will be taken up for discussion at the meeting, this meeting be adjourned for a week, and three days be allotted for non-official business at the end of the session after the voting of the demands for grants."

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I beg to second the motion Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has given us a vivid and a very sad picture of the devastation in all parts of the country around us. We are well placed. Being in an elevated place, we do not feel the pangs of poverty nor the ravages of the flood. The empty chairs here speak their own tale, and the full chairs on the opposite side speak their own tale. (*Laughter.*) How are we to get on with a piece of social legislation, when the Government members are mustered strong and our side so weak? How is it to be carried through? The chief member, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar, has to oppose the clause that has just now to be discussed, and he is absent. It is a very important consideration that has to be given to this motion. I just now received a telegram from Mr. Naoroji in Bombay.

"No letter, no telegrams from Alleppey. Proceeding impossible, lines being broken. Wire children's condition at Alleppey."

So, there is no communication between Alleppey and the other side, evidently. We are more or less having floods similar to that at the

time of Noah. Because, as I said, we are in an elevated place we are free from it. There is a big book, the budget, staring us in the face. This has been prepared under normal conditions; but the whole aspect of the country is changed. Thousands and lakhs of rupees will have to be spent on repairs of bridges and roads, culverts, etc., and more on relief work. The whole of this budget is not worth the paper on which it is printed, as matters stand just now. The aspect of the whole situation has changed and it is a very serious matter how we are going to pass this grant or the other grant before we know the ravages that have been committed by the flood.

Just now I got a circular, a beautiful circular, sent by the Chief Secretary to Government. I congratulate Government for taking prompt steps in the matter asking us to begin relief work along with all the heads of departments and to render help in this hour of desolation, in this hour of need. Are we to sit here and legislate when people are dying, when people are starving on account of the terrible havoc caused in the country by the flood? It will be like Nero fiddling while Rome is burning. (*Laughter.*) Therefore I strongly support Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's motion that the House be adjourned for some future time till normal conditions are restored.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I also support the motion. The event is an extraordinary one and the calamity is such that we shall not be justified in proceeding with the regular work of this Council without having a correct idea of the devastation caused by the floods. Floods, Sir, have been objects of terror in other parts of India; but in Travancore the people, in normal circumstances, welcome floods with as much enthusiasm as the people in Egypt welcome the rise of the Nile. But this year it has been a very grave affair and we hear gruesome details and we see horrible pictures of the disaster and the suffering which it has caused to the population of this State. Sitting here as we do in an elevated town with all the conveniences of a capital, we are not likely, Sir, to be able to realise the great sufferings of the poor people who are taken away by the elements when they were in the cosy atmosphere of their sleeping apartments. We should try to find out how much suffering there is, what are the localities that have been chiefly affected, what is the kind of relief measures that is required and what is the amount of money that has to be legitimately spent upon this most legitimate work of relieving distress. It has been said that the Nayar Regulation, which certainly is an important piece of legislation, is before the House and that we should have the presence of all the non-official members. It has also been said that, this being the budget session, we shall not have been justified in discussing the budget unless we get the details. But to my mind, Sir, there appears a third reason, and I would even call it, a stronger reason, because it is only by finding out the actual conditions that we shall be able to vote any money for the relief or for doing certain things in that direction. But now all the required data are not before the House. Therefore, the officers of Government and the heads of departments ought to travel; they must travel east and west and south and north, and try to form correct conclusions as to the amount of

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

expenditure necessary before any proposal is made to this Council. There is absolutely no use, Sir, in sanctioning a particular sum once for all ten, twenty or fifty thousand. If the distress is so great and the suffering so intense, we shall have to spend five lakhs of rupees or even ten lakhs. I do not think, Sir, that the work of Government cannot be suspended even for a while. At least certain departments, for example, the Development Departments—the Departments of Agriculture and Industries—may afford to wait for some time, because research work takes a very long time and has a long history. One year will not affect the result. And why do we want all these results of research? It is to make the people happy. All the agricultural experiments will make the people happy only if they have anything to eat and only when they do not require any relief from floods. Now if the officers are good enough to go about the whole country, not one officer or two, not the revenue or the police officer alone, but all the heads of departments, if they will only move about with enthusiasm in doing this legitimate work with a full feeling of their high sense of responsibility, I am sure, that the Government will be able to do very much indeed towards the alleviation of distress. I may mention, Sir, that the great work of the administration is to help the agriculturists. I remember, some of the greatest administrators of India, Sir Richard Temple, and Sir William Hunter, built their reputation by attending to relief work both in floods and in famine. I happened to read in the former's autobiography that he was living in a steam boat for weeks and months together for the sake of such relief work in times of distress. That is the ideal which the good Travancore officer has to place before him. (*Mr. A. Hoogewerf*: *Hear, hear.*) I do not think, Sir, that there is anything more to be mentioned in this connection, because all of us realise the difficulty of the situation. Government—I am glad I have been reminded by my friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai—have been doing what they could in the matter. But I request the House to place before the Government their wish that they may be disposed to make the relief of distress the first charge on the exchequer. With these words I strongly support the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, in supporting this motion for the adjournment of this meeting for a week, I wish to draw your attention to one or two facts. It has been observed that, under the Legislative Council Regulation, the budget has to be presented to the House before the beginning of the year for which it has been framed. The motion before the House, I should consider, asks only for an adjournment for a week. That being so, it will be possible for the House to discuss and also to pass the budget before the beginning of the year for which it has been prepared.

One other fact that I wish to draw your attention to is that it was with deep regret that, when the Council was prorogued last time, we had to adjourn the discussion of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill without being able to close it during that session itself. With your generosity, Sir, we have been able to get three days allotted for non-official business during this budget session itself. Unfortunately, for

reasons beyond the control of all of us, the meeting of the Council has to be adjourned at least for a week and it is the non-official business, practically, that has to suffer in consequence. I wish that the President will take due note of that fact and see that, as was originally his own idea, the three days allotted for non-official business are allotted at the end of this session itself after the budget discussion is over. With these observations, I would strongly support the motion of Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai to adjourn this meeting for a week.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I too join my friends in supporting the motion made by Mr. Narayana Pillai. It is impossible for us now to estimate the havoc caused by the floods in the country. Within the memory of the oldest man living, the country has not experienced such a visitation. I had the opportunity to see some places and also to hear reports from others regarding the havoc caused by the floods. So far as the people of Kallada are concerned their condition is most distressful. Almost all houses on either side of the Kallada river have been completely washed away and I have reliable reports from respectable men of the locality. Some of the people are occupying, it is said, the tops of coconut trees and there are only very few bits of land here and there which are not under water. The condition of the depressed classes particularly is most miserable. They lived mostly on the sides of the river or in the paddy fields in small huts and they are now rendered absolutely homeless and they are seen on the top of a hillock at the Chittumala temple. No doubt, Government have been kind enough to allot money for the relief of these people. But till day before yesterday evening the people did not get the advantage of the money, because, although the Government sanctioned the money, the Treasury Officer did not receive instructions from the Account Office for the disbursement of the amount sanctioned.

PRESIDENT: Surely the local officers must exercise some discretion in such matters.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): We wanted to hold a public meeting there and for that purpose we sought the co-operation of the local officers. Unfortunately the Peishkar got stranded at Chengannur and so he was not in a position to help us at the meeting. We requested his Assistant to join us, but he said that he could not do so because the Tahsildar had already gone to the spot. The lives of the people there were in danger and, therefore, we ourselves collected about Rs. 400 day before yesterday and sent rice and other things. Yesterday out of the funds of the Vakils' Association,—a poor body—we subscribed Rs. 150 and sent rice and other food-stuffs. The condition of the people there is so miserable that the whole energy of the Government—not only of the Commissioner of Police and one or two officers of Government—the whole energy of Government should be directed towards the relief of these people. We do not find Mr. Govinda Menon or Mr. Khadir Pillai from Alwaye so that we may know the condition in that locality. If they had been here, they would have told us the condition of the people there. Therefore, whatever may be the rule in regard to adjournment—after all, Sir, rules are made for man and not man for rules—

[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are the rules against the adjournment? I do not think so.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I say, even if the rules are against adjournment, it is the primary duty of Government to give some relief to these people, the meeting must be adjourned and all energy directed towards relief work. On these grounds, I also strongly support the motion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I also support the motion for adjournment of the House. It is only a week's adjournment that is asked for and in view of Section—

PRESIDENT: I may tell you that a week's adjournment I am prepared to grant. (*Hear, hear.*) We need not argue out that point.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): In view of the assurance given by the President, I would only like to say that it is not only an adjournment for a week that would satisfy the requirements of the situation. It is in view of Section 112 of the Legislative Council Rules that only a week's adjournment has been asked. Section 112 says:—

"A statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the State (hereinafter called the Budget) shall be presented to the Council in the form of a statement before the beginning of the year for which it is framed and on such day as the Dewan may appoint."

So I would like to point out that, before the close of this month, the budget will have to be discussed and finally passed. But the question is whether Section 112 should be binding upon us in circumstances such as this. As my friend Mr. Hoogewerf pointed out, the whole of North Travancore is under water. I need only ask one question in this connection. Suppose this House itself was situated in Kuttanad, in Alwaye or in Parur. Could we respect this Section 112 then? So, my request is that though, to be consistent with the rules, only a week's adjournment is asked for, the President may exercise his power as President and see that the discussion of the budget itself is adjourned to some future date when it will be possible for us to see how the floods have affected the country, how the people are suffering and what all things would actually be necessary to relieve the people from distress.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Panjikaran whether his clients have been able to come to Trivandrum and give him instructions during the last seven days?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): No; they have not. So, as a matter of fact, we know that the whole of North Travancore is under water. I have also been getting some letters and messages which also show that people are suffering very much. In these circumstances, I do not wish even to have the discussion of this budget which has not been prepared for these altered circumstances. I do not mean to say that it is the fault of anybody. All that I ask is now that the altered situation has been brought about, is it not pure wisdom that

we wait a little and see how the existing conditions are changed, before we rush on with the budget? So, I would, in addition to the motion for adjournment of the House for a week, request that, as President of the House, and as Dewan, you, Sir, see that the budget discussion itself is postponed to some other date in order that we may know the real situation to see what help we can render to the suffering people of Travancore.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I shall be failing in my duty if I do not give the House an idea of my personal knowledge in the matter. To give a picture of the place to the Council, I must say that there is a river running between the two Kalladas—Eastern Kallada belonging to the Quilon taluk and the Western Kallada belonging to the Kunnattur taluk. This river was being flooded in years past. But during the time of, I believe, Mr. A. Govinda Pillai who is here, as the Dewan Peishkar of the Quilon Division, the Government put up a bund on both sides of the river, so that the distress that was being caused to the people by the floods could be avoided. But, Sir, later on there have been breaches of bunds on both sides of the river and there were cases of some flood sometimes also. But this year's flood is quite a different thing altogether. During the time we had floods in the past, I was in Kallada. My father belongs to Kallada and I was born and brought up there. To my knowledge, those floods did not cause actual damages to the people. But this year when I heard of the flood I ran up in a car hired for the purpose, to a hill in Kallada, *i. e.*, on this side of the eastern Kallada where there is a temple, *i. e.*, Chittumala. From there I could see almost all the places of western Kallada and eastern Kallada. I had also friends with me who had accompained me to see the flood. What I saw there, I am not able to describe. I saw hundreds of houses under water and I could see only the roofs of certain big houses. Most of the houses had tumbled down under water. Then I enquired about the cattle of the place, and the information that I received was that the cattle were untied and sent out and that the people did not know where they had gone. My next question was about the *saman*—furniture and other things—belonging to the people there, and the reply I got was that they had gone to the Ashtamudi lake, the sea or something of that sort. Again, I asked about the inhabitants of the place. They told me that the people of western Kallada had gone to the surrounding hills—Sastankotta, Tevalakara, and other hills, while the people belonging to the eastern Kallada were living on the Chittumala hill. When we went there, we saw thousands of persons helpless and homeless gathering around us. They asked us to render some help. But we were not well prepared for it when we went there. I may say, Sir, that the paddy and other articles of food that they had collected for use till the next crop were all gone. The seeds and seedlings that they had for the next crop had also gone. I believe that for the next five or six years they will have nothing to live upon. Then I thought that I could go to the other side of the river, which I could not. Why? I had to go there through Kulakkada, *i. e.*, through the M. C. road. The disaster there

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was equally terrible. When we go two miles away from Kottarakara down, the floods begin, and from there, we have to go in a boat for about ten miles in order to reach Adur. Such being the distress caused to the people of my constituency as well as to the adjacent tracts, unless I see some adequate provision made in this year's budget for relieving the distress of the people caused by the floods, I submit that I shall not be able to vote upon any item in the budget. With these observations, I support the motion before the House.

PRESIDENT: Before I put this proposition to the vote I should like to say a few words. It seems to me that the proposition has been so framed as to make it difficult for the Government to accept it in its entirety. As I have said in the course of the discussion, I am quite prepared to adjourn the House till the 17th Karkatakam. And it is quite possible to present the budget on that day for general discussion and get through the voting of grants by the 28th Karkatakam. As for the statement made that the budget presented a week hence cannot be accepted as the budget which will be applicable to the next year, I may say that this is, to some extent, true. But it seems to me that the situation is such that, in the course of one week, we will not be in a very much better position to gauge it. It is still a question, as you know, from the reports we have been receiving, of struggle for life, people being rescued and property being rescued as far as possible. The floods have not gone down, and reconstruction and restoration work and real relief work have not yet been started and could not be started. It is only after the floods subside and people are able to return to their places, that we shall be in a position to gauge fuller the extent of the damage caused, and the measures that will have to be taken to relieve distress and effect reconstruction. But I may tell the House that, in the matter of giving relief, giving the people help towards reconstruction and restoration, the Government will not hesitate to do their utmost. (*Hear, hear.*) I think it is one of the primary duties of the Government to put their hands as deep into their pockets as possible on an occasion like this, unmindful of the financial dislocation that may be caused by such a step and help the people to the best of their ability. (*Hear, hear.*) From what little Government have been doing these few days, I think the House realises that Government are anxious to do all that they can to relieve the situation. It must be remembered that this is not a time when people can move freely from one part of the country to another. Floods have interrupted communications and have prevented people from going from one part of the country to another, and even heads of departments cannot move as freely as they would wish. Indeed, in view of the fact that telegraphic communications are the only sort of communications least dislocated, the doubt arises whether it would not be wise for them to remain in a central place where they could be in touch with all their subordinates all over the country and could be guiding them. I have however already requested the Land Revenue Commissioner to move about as far as it can be advantageously done. I am also requesting the Commissioner of Police, the Chief Engineer and the other

high touring officers to do the same. They may go as far as physically they can. But they must always keep themselves in touch with their subordinates so as to be in a position to issue instructions which could be promptly carried out. From the speeches of one or two members I gather that there is a sort of undercurrent in their minds that the Government officers are not doing their best. I must take the liberty of saying that as far as I have been able to gather from the scanty information available, local officers have been doing their very best. Mr. Hoogewerf has referred to the Circular of Government issued yesterday. It will, I hope, put heart into such of them, if any, as are halting and not sufficiently energetic. I have issued instructions to the Chief Justice to close the High Court for the whole of the next week so that the members of the bar and the client population who are interested in the affected parts may go back and see what they can do by way of saving their kith and kin and property and afford relief. I am also instructing the Director of Public Instruction to close the colleges for the next week in Trivandrum and also to issue instructions to the heads of educational institutions in Trivandrum and in all the parts of Travancore north of Trivandrum to close the schools, if necessary, for the purpose of letting the students free or giving shelter to the people who have been driven from their homes by the floods. I have also requested the Chief Justice to issue orders to the District Judges and to the Munsiffs to take similar action if necessary.

Returning to the question of the budget, Mr. Panjikaran and one or two other members have said that this budget would be valueless. I do not think so. Imagine what will happen if we do not pass the budget before the end of the year. We want all the standing sanctions before the new year commences. We have recognised expenditure under establishments and under various fixed heads to incur. These items of expenditure cannot be postponed. I fully realise that the programme as regards certain items of expenditure such as those under the Development and the Public Works Departments may have to be considerably altered. But we are meeting ordinarily four times in the year and we could meet oftener if necessary. I do not see why all the deviations that may be found necessary in the initial budget on account of such unforeseen circumstances as the present could not be placed before the Council at its meetings in the course of the year and the necessary sanction of the Council obtained for such deviations. That is the only possible course in a case like this.

The portion of the motion which, I am afraid, it would not be possible for the Government to accept is the portion which says that the meeting should continue for three days beyond the last day already fixed. Two of these days happen to be holidays on account of Hindu festivals. Even assuming that the Hindu members of the House do not want to enjoy these holidays and that they are prepared to forego them, it must be remembered that they are the last days of the official year, during which a good deal of urgent work has to be done and the heads of

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departments and the Government would be very busy with such work. Moreover, by that time we will have sat for ten days and it would be time for the officers of Government to go out again in connection with flood relief. That would be the time when they would be in a position to get a more or less reliable idea of the relief and reconstruction that would be required. I therefore think that it would not be feasible to prolong the sitting of the Council beyond the 28th Karkatakam. I realise that it means that the non-official business of the Council suffers. The Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill which we all hoped would be taken up and gone through at this session has unfortunately to be put off. But it is not urgent in the sense in which relief of distress and saving of life and other urgent measures of administration are urgent. It seems to me that, under these circumstances, non-official work will have to wait for the next meeting of the Council. These are the remarks that I have to make in regard to the motion. The motion in the shape in which it has been placed before the House cannot, I am afraid, be accepted.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : May I say a word—

PRESIDENT : I do not think you are in order. I am going to put the motion to the vote.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Under the rules, the fixing of the date of the meeting of the Council is entirely left to the President.

PRESIDENT : I am willing to do all that I can to meet the wishes of the House. The House knows that I have been doing it. But, in regard to this particular request in the motion, it is not possible to meet the wishes of the House for the reasons already stated.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*) : May I request you, Sir, as Head of the Administration to start a relief fund to supplement the help which the Government have already proposed to give ?

PRESIDENT : I do not catch you.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I request you, as Head of the Government to start a relief fund to supplement Government help?

PRESIDENT : I have already considered it yesterday and it seems to me that this is not the time for holding meetings and talking. This is a time for action. Local non-officials and officers must combine and co-operate and do the best they can under the circumstances.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Mr. Sankara Menon is not in order in addressing the Head of the Administration here. Such a request cannot be made in the Council to the President in his capacity as Dewan.

PRESIDENT : Very well, it does not matter. We are not very formal just now. Mr. Sankara Menon, if you would go and talk over

the matter with me outside the House, I should like to discuss it with you and do all that is possible.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I suggest that three days may be allotted after the end of this month for the discussion of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill ?

PRESIDENT: This meeting cannot be held next year, because this is a session in itself which must close this year.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In that case, is it not possible to have a session in Chingam ?

PRESIDENT. That is a matter which I must consider before I can give you an answer. As I said I am willing to meet the wishes of the House as far as possible, but this is not a thing in which I can give an off-hand reply.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Cannot one day be allotted for the discussion of the resolutions which have been balloted ?

PRESIDENT: You forget the amount of work that we have got to do. Now, Mr. Narayana Pillai, may I ask you whether you are agreeable to putting the motion to the vote deleting the last portion which I do not think I can accept?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I shall do one thing. In view of what has already fallen from the Chair, I only move for an adjournment of the House. For how many days, I shall not say. I leave it to the discretion, as under the rules, of the President, to settle the date on which the House should meet.

PRESIDENT: There is no difficulty so far as that goes. We may meet on the 17th Karkatakam.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But, in spite of what has fallen from the President, I still request that some margin may be found for the consideration of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill also.

PRESIDENT: Of course you know the importance of the Bill. We cannot rush it through odd intervals. It requires three or four solid days, (*laughter*) I think, in the interests of all concerned.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): All that is necessary is that the budget will have to be presented during the current year. That may be done and a portion of the meeting may also be held in Chingam.

PRESIDENT: That is not the spirit of the rule. The budget will have to be approved before the *end* of the year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I shall try to make the voting upon the budget easy enough provided that there is an understanding that this Bill will also be discussed.

PRESIDENT: That is asking too much, I fear.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I shall persuade all my friends also to make it easy. (*Laughter.*) It is not in any

[President.]

spirit of misgiving that I make this request. I am certainly convinced of the very deep interest the President has in the enactment of that Regulation. I am also prepared to thank you for all that you have done in connection with the catastrophe which has overtaken Central and North Travancore, and in the same spirit I request—I mean in view of what you have already done—that you may not forget what remains to be done.

PRESIDENT: What is the loss in delaying the Bill for a month or two?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Our fear is that we may not see the Bill passed before this Council is dissolved.

PRESIDENT: That is a far-off event.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): You can easily devise some means and we would have absolutely no objection to agree to anything you are prepared to do in the matter. The fear is that this Bill would outlive the life of this Council. If that were the case the whole thing would drop.

PRESIDENT: I may assure the House that everything possible will be done towards passing it through this Council.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am prepared to withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: But there must be a motion for the adjournment of the House which must be passed.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Under the Rules the President has power to fix the date of the meeting. I move for an adjournment of the House.

PRESIDENT: Then I take it that the motion is accepted by the House. We shall meet on the 17th Karkatakam when the budget will be presented.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I request that intimation of adjournment be sent to those members who are absent, by wire and by post.

PRESIDENT: We will send it by post and wire.

The House adjourned at 12-55 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on the 17th Karkatakam.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECOND SESSION, 1099.

Friday, 1st August, 1924.

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-Five of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a resonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Libellous Statement about Mr. Van Ross in the Janmabhumi.

13. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to an article written by "G. P.," under the caption "A Sahib who does not receive bribes," published in the *Janmabhumi*, No. 2, dated the 26th Kanni, 1099?

(*b*) Since that article, which openly alleges that Mr. Van Ross, the Excise Commissioner, takes bribes, is defamatory to him in his official capacity and detrimental to the fair name of the service, will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken thereon?

(*c*) Do the Government or does Mr. Van Ross propose to prosecute the newspaper for publishing that article?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.
(*b*) No action has been taken.
(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ ലേഖനത്തെപ്പറ്റി നടപടികൾ ഒന്നും നടത്താത്തതിനു കാരണമെന്തു?

G. P. T. 4566. 310. 25-8-24.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): നടപടിനടത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുള്ളതായി ഗവർൺമെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ആ മാതിരി ലേഖനങ്ങൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കു മാനനഷ്ടത്തിനു കാരണമല്ലേ ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I beg for a ruling from the Chair as to whether this is a supplementary question and whether it is not a question asking for an expression of opinion. It is not a supplementary question, I think.

PRESIDENT: I too think so.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): പബ്ലിക്ക് സൎവീസിനെ നിഷ്കളങ്കമായനിലയിൽ പരിപാലിക്കണമെന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): ഉണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറോസിൻെറ കെട്ടിടത്തിൽവച്ചു കൈക്കൂലികൊടുക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചു ഒരു പോററിയുടെമേൽ കേസുകൊടുക്കാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കെ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള നാല്പതുലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളിൽ മിക്കവാറും ആളുകൾക്കും വായിച്ചറിവാൻ സൌകൎയ്യമുള്ളതായ ആ ലേഖനത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കേസുകൊടുക്കാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കാത്തതിൻെറ കാരണമെന്തു് ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കേസു കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ് ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): സത്യസന്ധന്മാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെമേൽ ഇതുമാതിരി ലേഖനങ്ങൾ പരസ്യംചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു വേറെ വല്ല ദൃഷ്ടാന്തവും പറയാമോ ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is not a supplementary question, Sir.

PRESIDENT: No, that is not a supplementary question. It does not arise out of the answers already furnished.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ അഴിമതികൾ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള പത്രപ്രസ്താവനകൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറു ശേഖരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That too does not arise out of this question.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I rise to a point of order? Is it the member in charge who is to decide as to the relevancy or otherwise of a supplementary question?

PRESIDENT: He is only submitting the point to the Chair for a ruling.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Viluvankod*): അങ്ങനെ ലേഖനം പരസ്യംചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അതിനെപ്പററി അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി തെളിവുശേഖരിച്ചു നടപടി നടത്തിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കാൻ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ അവരുടെ അഭിമാനം അനുവദിക്കുന്നതാണോ ?

PRESIDENT: That has already been answered. In the opinion of the Government, an order to prosecute or to take any other action on the article is not necessary.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഒരാൾക്ക് ഒരു പത്രത്തിൽ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെപ്പററി എന്തെങ്കിലും എഴുതാം. ആ ലേഖനത്തെപ്പററി യാതൊരു നടപടിയും നടത്തേണ്ടതില്ലെന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെപ്പററി അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസം ഉണ്ടാകും. അതു പബ്ലിക് സർവീസിനു വളരെ ന്യൂനതയായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. അതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: Have you any answer, Mr. Krishna Pillai?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no further answer to give. The question has already been answered.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ലേഖനത്തെപ്പററ് ഗവർൺമെൻറു നടപടി നടത്താതെ ഇരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇന്നു സത്യസന്ധന്മാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങുവാൻ അതു ഒരു സൌകര്യമായി തീരുകയില്ലേ?

PRESIDENT: The answer does not say that the Government are never going to take any action whatsoever. The answer says that, in the opinion of the Government, no action need be taken in this particular case.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Viluvankod*): ഞാനും അതുതന്നെയാണ് പറയുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെ പരസ്യംചെയ്യുന്ന ലേഖന

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ങ്ങൾ സത്യസന്ധന്മാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് ദോഷമായി വരുമെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു

PRESIDENT: You are giving your opinion. Please put a question.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): എന്തുകാരണത്താലാണ് അതിനെപ്പററി നടപടിനടത്തേണ്ടാ എന്നു തീരുമാനിച്ചത്?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already said that that is the opinion of the Government. I have nothing more to say.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതു മനസ്സിലായി. അതിന്റെ കാരണമെന്താണെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്കറിയേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. അതറിഞ്ഞാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു മേലാൽ അതനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും.

PRESIDENT: Have you any answer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no answer.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആദ്യത്തെ ലേഖനത്തിന്മേൽ നടപടി അവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു ഗവർൺമെന്റു നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. അതിൽ പിന്നീട് അതിലുപരിയായ ഒരു ലേഖനം പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്താനിടയായി. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ആ ലേഖനത്തെപ്പററി വേണ്ട നടപടി നടത്താൻ ഗവർൺമെന്റ് ആലോചിക്കുന്നില്ലയോ?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise out of this question at all.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറോസിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അദ്ദേഹം എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരായതിൽ പിന്നീട് ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള പത്രപ്രസ്താവനകളെ ഒന്നായി ഗവർൺമെന്റിൽ നിന്നും ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിനും, വായിക്കുന്നതിനും ഇടവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It does not appear to be a supplementary question. If the Chair rules that it is a supplementary question, I shall answer it.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid it is not a supplementary question.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ മാതിരി ലേഖനങ്ങൾ മററതെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെപ്പററി പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഗവർൺമെന്റിനു കാണ്മാൻ ഇടവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: That again does not arise. We are dealing with this particular matter now.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനുള്ള കാരണം പറയാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ സപ്ളിമെൻററി കൊസ്റ്റ്യൻ ചോദിക്കാനിടയായതു.

PRESIDENT: In the opinion of Government there may be a number of reasons.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ മാതിരി സർക്കാർഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെമേൽ കേസ് വരുമ്പോൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നു പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ പണം ചിലവാക്കാൻ തയാറില്ലെന്നുള്ള കാരണംകൊണ്ടാണോ കൊടുക്കാത്തത്?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അല്ല.

Attingal Panchayat Court.

14. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Attingal Village Panchayat Court Judges have not been doing any work for the last many months?

(*b*) From what date have they not been holding court?

(*c*) What is the cause of it?

(*d*) Did the President shift the court from its original house, and, if so, when?

(*e*) Is the rent for the new building higher or lower, and, if so, by how much?

(*f*) Does the present building belong to the President or to his son?

(*g*) Has any rent been paid for the new building?

(*h*) Has the owner of the old rented building complained to the Government and the High Court that the term of the contract with him for the occupation of the old building has not expired and that rent is still due to him?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) and (*b*) Government are informed that the Village Panchayat Court, Attingal, did not sit from the 20th Makaram, 1099, to the 16th Minam, 1099.

(*c*) Want of a quorum.

(*d*) Yes; on the 17th Makaram, 1099.

(*e*) Higher than the present rent by Rs. 8 per mensem.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) The rent up to the end of Medam, 1099, has been paid.

(*h*) The owner of the old rented building complained to the High Court and the complaint was found to be groundless.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

Revenue Work in certain Pakuthies of the Chirayinkil Taluk.

15. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): (*a*) With reference to the answer given to part 2 (*a*) to (*c*) of question No. 86, asked on the 16th January, 1924, will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they have appointed any officer other than the Tahsildar to dispose of *pokkuvaravu* cases, to attend to subdivision work, to dispose of boundary disputes and to supervise survey marks in the nine *pakuthies* therein mentioned;

(ii) if not, why; and

(iii) whether the holders of *Pandaravagai* lands in those *pakuthies* are not the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether these land-holders are undergoing difficulties and troubles owing to the above-said items of work being held in abeyance?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to remove the difficulties of the said land-holders including those of Attingal?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) The answer is in the negative.

(ii) Government consider that these items of work should be attended to by the *Edavagai* authorities.

(iii) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Government have no information.

(*c*) The matter will be looked into.

Castewar Statement of Appointments made by the Director of Registration.

16. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish a castewar statement of the appointments, permanent and temporary, made by the Director of Registration during the last two years?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A statement* is appended giving the information required by the member.

Salt Contract of Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar.

17. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the date of the agreement of Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar for the import and sale of Tinnevelly salt in Quilon?

(*b*) How many maunds of salt have to be imported up to Mithunam, 1099, under that agreement?

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* *Vide* appendix I—page 45.

(c) How many maunds of salt out of that quantity have been imported up to Mithunam, 1099?

(d) Has the Excise Commissioner recommended to the Government the cancellation of the agreement as the conditions of the contract have not been fulfilled?

(e) If so, when was that letter addressed and what was the decision of the Government thereon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) No contract has been entered into with Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar for the import and sale of Tinnevelly salt in Quilon.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) In view of the answer to part (a), these questions do not arise.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആരാണ് കൊല്ലത്ത് ഉപ്പു കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന കൺട്രാക്റ്റർ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ഏതു വർഷത്തേക്ക?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തേക്ക്.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ൧൦൯൮-ൽ മി. കരയാളർക്ക് ഉപ്പു കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിന് ഒരു കൺട്രാക്റ്റ് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഉപ്പുവില്പനയ്ക്ക് കൺട്രാക്റ്റ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല.

൧൦൯൯-ൽ തുത്തുക്കുടി മി. കാശിരാമയ്യർ എന്ന ഒരാൾക്കാണ് ഉപ്പു കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ കൺട്രാക്റ്റ്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ൧൦൯൮-ൽ മി. സുബ്രഹ്മണ്യകരയാളർ ഉടമ്പടിപ്രകാരമുള്ള ഉപ്പു മുഴുവനും കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

Quality of Salt supplied by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar at Quilon.

18. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*):

(a) Has the Excise Commissioner known either from petitions or by other means that the salt brought to Quilon and sold by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar, as per his agreement with the Government, is of bad quality?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the measures taken by the Excise Commissioner in the matter?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 17.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

Action taken by the Municipal President, Quilon, re. the Salt sold by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar.

19. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the President, Municipal Council, Quilon, knows that there have been complaints from the people of Quilon regarding the quality of salt imported and sold there by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar as per his agreement?

(*b*) Did the President, Municipal Council, Quilon, call for a sample of the salt sold by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar at Quilon, from the local Assistant Excise Commissioner?

(*c*) Was the sample sent as requested?

(*d*) If not, why?

(*e*) Did the Excise Commissioner come to know of this?

(*f*) If so, what action has he taken in the matter?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 17.

Chemical Examination of Salt sold by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar at Quilon.

20. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*):

(*a*) Has the Excise Commissioner sent for chemical examination the salt sold by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar at Quilon?

(*b*) If so, what is the result of such examination?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 17.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ കൊല്ലം കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ കൊള്ളുകയില്ലെന്നു പരാതി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ആ ഉപ്പ് ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ കൊള്ളുകയില്ലെന്നു ഗവർൺമെന്റിനറിവാൻ ഇടവന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഒന്നുരണ്ടവസരത്തിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ സുബ്രഹ്മണ്യകരയാളർ കൊല്ലത്ത് ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്ത ഉപ്പ് ഉടമ്പടി അനുസരിച്ചുള്ളതല്ല എന്നു പരാതി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): നല്ല ഉപ്പല്ല ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്തത് എന്നകാരണത്താൽ ര്,ഡൻ ൈമൻ ഉപ്പിനു മണ്ണൊന്നിന് നാലണ അഞ്ചു പൈസയും വ,ന.വ്യവ്യമൻ ഉപ്പിന് ഒരണ അഞ്ചു പൈസയും വീതം വിലകുറച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ചീത്ത ഉപ്പിനു വില കുറയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായി തീരും എന്നാണൊ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ വിശ്വാസം?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ആ ഉപ്പു ചീത്തയല്ലായിരുന്നു. ഉടമ്പടി അനുസരിച്ച് ഏല്പിക്കേണ്ട മാതിരിയിലുള്ളതല്ലായിരുന്നു എന്നല്ലാതെ ഉപയോഗയോഗ്യമല്ലാതിരുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങനെയാണ് അതിനെപ്പററി എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): കൊല്ലം മുനിസിപ്പൽ പ്രസിഡൻറ് അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് എഴുതി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അറിവില്ല.

Salt Contract of Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar.

21. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total quantity of Tinnevelly salt which Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar was bound to transport and store in the depôts at Alleppey and Quilon before the end of Medam, 1099, as per his agreement, and the actual quantity he transported during that period?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, as the contractor failed to fulfil the terms of the contract, the Excise Commissioner recommended that the agreement be cancelled, and, if so, what were the orders passed by the Government on that recommendation?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Under the agreement, Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar had to transport to Alleppey a quantity of 2,25,000 maunds of Tinnevelly salt before the end of Medam, 1099. The quantity actually transported to Alleppey by Mr. Karayalar till that date is 1,30,154 maunds. Mr. Karayalar did not transport any salt to Quilon in 1099 as he was not the contractor engaged for the purpose.

(*b*) The Excise Commissioner did not recommend the cancellation of the agreement but asked for notice being taken of the contractor's remissness. He has accordingly been warned and a penalty has been ordered to be imposed on him under the agreement.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not one of the terms of the contract entered into by the Government with Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar say that, in case the contractor defaults to transport

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

the whole quantity of salt agreed upon, another contractor will be employed, Mr. Karayalar's contract cancelled and the whole damage sustained by the Government recovered from him?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is not the term of the contract. The contract is: "If there is continued and persistent neglect, failure or omission on the part of Mr. Karayalar, it is competent to the Government to cancel his contract."

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If he does not supply, what will the Government do?

PRESIDENT: It is a hypothetical question. Please do not put hypothetical questions.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When was the recommendation of the Excise Commissioner to impose some penalty in the matter sanctioned?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): On the 5th June, 1924.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the penalty?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The penalty was to realise the sum of Rs. 4-as. 4 per 100 maunds on the quantity short-delivered.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has the money been recovered from the contractor?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I shall enquire.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How was the deficiency made good in the Alleppey Depôt?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There was no necessity to make it good. The term for delivery has been extended up to the end of Vrischikam, 1100, and the contractor is delivering the balance due in instalments.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Till a certain date a certain quantity was required for the depôt. But he did not supply the whole quantity agreed upon. How was the deficiency made good?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There was no need to make good the deficiency.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did the failure on the part of the contractor to transport the salt at the required time put up prices in the market?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How did the Government ascertain this?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government know that prices have not risen.

Bombay Salt Monopoly.

22. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar has now applied to the Government that he may be granted the sole monopoly for the transport and sale of Bombay salt at Alleppey and Munambam, and, if so, what orders have been passed on that application?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Tamaracolam Salt.

23. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanantitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that the local salt transported from Tamaracolam old *allom* to Quilon is unfit for human consumption; and

(*b*) if not, whether they will be pleased to enquire whether it is unfit or not?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise. The matter has been enquired into.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether any chemical examination of the salt was made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Which salt?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The salt mentioned as transported from Tamaracolam.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Such salt is periodically subjected to chemical examination. If the member wishes to have information as regards any specific consignment, I shall supply it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Municipal President wrote to the Assistant Excise Commissioner to have a sample of the salt transported from Tamaracolam to Quilon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is the kind of enquiry made by the Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Two newspaper articles appeared alleging that local salt supplied in Quilon was of inferior quality.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question. Mr. Madhava Variar wants to know what is the kind of enquiry made by the Government with regard to the unfitness of the salt transported.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir, I am answering that question. Two articles appeared in the *Malayali*. The Excise Commissioner sent cuttings of those articles to the Assistant Excise Commissioner for report. Mr. G. Nilakantan, the Assistant Excise Commissioner, made an enquiry and reported that the allegation was unfounded, and there the matter ended.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Government made any enquiry direct?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Government did not make any enquiry; only the Excise Commissioner did.

Salt Manufacture in Travancore.

24. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of salt manufactured in South Travancore during the last ten years, giving the figures for each year for each factory;

(*b*) the area under salt cultivation during these ten years, giving the figure for each year separately; and

(*c*) the expenditure under salaries and contingencies for the salt factories during each year for that period?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) Statements* giving the required information are placed on the table.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not the aim of Government to make Travancore self-contained in its supply of salt?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is the ideal.

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do the Government see from the statements placed before this House that in ten years' time the supply of salt from the South Travancore Factories has not improved?

* *Vide* appendix II—pages 46 and 47.

PRESIDENT: You go into a question of policy. Such a question cannot be allowed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am only speaking of facts and figures

PRESIDENT: Facts have been given to you.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know why there has been no improvement in the supply of salt for the last ten years from the salt factories?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Every effort is being made to improve and extend the supply of salt.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do the Government see from the statement that in 1089 the Tamaracolam old *Allom* supplied twice the quantity of salt now being supplied by that factory?

PRESIDENT: I must say that that question does not arise. It is again a question of policy, which should be brought forward in the form of a resolution.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am not asking a question of policy.

PRESIDENT: You cannot ask questions regarding opinions. There are the figures in the statement from which you can draw your own inferences.

MR. A HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do the Government realise that, in case the Interportal Convention is revised, the duty on salt may have to be paid by the State?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this question.

Appendix I.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 16.**

Castewar statement of permanent and temporary appointments made by the Director of Registration during 1097 and 1098.

Caste of the person appointed.	Appointments made in 1097.		Appointments made in 1098.	
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Permanent.	Temporary.
Nayar ...	...	59	6	80
Brahmin ...	1	7	3	7
Christian ...	...	10	4	18
Ezhava ...	...	11	1	10
Mahomedan ...	...	1	...	1
Others ...	...	8	...	8

Appendix II.

***Vide* answer to Question No. 24.**

A. Statement showing the quantity of salt manufactured in South Travancore factories during the last ten years (1089-1098.)

Name of factory.	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Tamaracolam old *allom* .	1,01,192	85,010	1,04,865	99,431	78,853	84,310	52,608	76,440	34,720	66,522
Dr. Sankaramurti Pillai's *allom* .	..	..	302	1,890	2,456	3,253	1,643	6,238	4,320	5,787
Swaminatha Pillai's factory .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	765
Do. *Puthallom* .	1,30,113	99,327	1,00,192	1,14,602	75,452	1,23,424	75,025	62,467	53,452	48,320
Extension factory No. I .	1,71,458	1,11,844	1,07,228	1,78,352	1,44,771	1,52,194	1,34,190	1,54,102	1,31,538	1,09,457
Do. No. II .	..	..	83,575	99,432	81,966	81,808	45,834	79,016	59,934	60,812
S. M. G. N. *allom* .	..	..	..	3,100	18,202	88,389	55,058	1,18,599	86,387¾	1,22,401
S. M. K. M. *allom* .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,225	25,875	52,208
Srisankara *allom* .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,000	16,200	66,164
Colachel „ .	36,966	8,364	11,865	15,448	16,556	27,113	3,439	..	40½	2,086½
Rajakkamangalam „ .	95,400	82,925	68,206	81,285	63,130	88,897	15,738	1,093	11,676	28,466
Srichitra Pon factory .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..
Tattarippu Odai .	1,052	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Variyur *allom* .	3,340	1,935	670	3	55	..	..	..	..	1,470
Kumari *allom* .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .	5,39,521	3,89,405	4,76,903	5,93,543	4,81,441	6,49,388	3,83,535	5,12,180	4,24,155¼	5,64,458½

Appendix II—(*Contd.*)

B. Statement showing the area under salt cultivation during the last ten years (1089-1098.)

1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098
Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
950·19	950·19	914·73	1,054·33	1,054·33	1,138·86	1,173·18	1,173·18	1,198·03	1,211·27

C. Statement showing the expenditure under salaries and contingencies for the Salt factories during the past ten years (1089-1098).

Year	Salaries			Contingencies			Total		
	Rs.	ch.	c.	Rs.	ch.	c.	Rs.	ch.	c.
1089	20,027	27	2	9,654	3	6	29,682	2	8
1090	21,432	16	5	1,692	19	10	23,125	7	15
1091	20,295	23	2	1,695	15	7	21,991	10	9
1092	21,556	14	11	2,206	26	3	23,763	12	14
1093	22,927	23	6	1,822	25	4	24,750	20	10
1094	23,572	13	9	2,338	24	11	25,911	10	4
1095	24,071	3	11	1,738	26	8	25,810	2	3
1096	34,587	1	13	3,667	25	2	38,254	26	15
1097	36,466	2	5	4,759	14	14	41,225	17	3
1098	42,980	17	3	4,556	12	..	47,537	1	3

[Mr. K. George.]

PRESIDENT: I have to make a statement in regard to the budget.

Under Rule 47 of the Legislative Council Rules, the debate on the budget for 1100, which will be presented by the Financial Secretary, will begin with a general discussion and will be followed by the voting of demands for grants. As you are aware, the date for the presentation of the budget had to be postponed from the 14th Karkatakam, as previously arranged, to this day, and the general discussion of the budget from the 17th and 18th to the 18th and 20th idem. The voting of demands for grants will have to begin on the 21st Karkatakam, and seven days, the maximum period admissible under the Rules, have been allowed for the purpose. The demands will be discussed in the order in which they have been set down in the statement furnished to you. Three days out of the seven may be taken up for the discussion of the demands on Revenue, Education and Public Works, each of these demands not taking more than one day. The remaining demands will have to be dealt with within the remaining four days and not more than half a day can be allowed to any one demand. All motions pending in respect of any demand will lapse at the end of that period; and under Rule 49 (3) every question necessary for the disposal of all outstanding matters in connection with the demands for grants will be put at 5 P. M. on the last day.

During the general discussion stage, not more than 20 minutes will be allowed to each member other than the Financial Secretary. When voting on the demands for grants, every mover and the official member who has the right of reply will be allowed 10 minutes each and the other members 5 minutes each.

Notice of motions for the reduction or omission of grants in a demand has to be given 5 clear days before the day on which that demand comes up for consideration. With a view to secure uniformity and to afford convenience to the members, printed forms have been furnished for sending up motions on the budget, and I trust that this arrangement will serve to obviate the difficulty which was experienced in previous years.

The Financial Secretary will now present the budget.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to present the Financial Statement of 1100. We are met here under the shadow of a great calamity. Travancore has always been a favoured daughter of nature. At no time in the memory of the present generation has she been seriously afflicted by floods, famines or other ravages of nature. But in the last two weeks, our country has been laid waste by floods of unprecedented magnitude. All our rivers, particularly those to the north of Quilon, have overflowed their banks and

inundated the tracts through which they flow, spreading desolation and distress to the people who live in their neighbourhood. Full details of the extent of the disaster are not yet available. Owing to the interruption of communications, the information received has been necessarily fragmentary; but from the reports so far received, and from those that have recently appeared in the Press, it would seem that, although there has been no serious loss of life, except in the Devicolam Division, and perhaps also in the Parur taluk, there is reason to fear that very considerable damage has been done to crops, cattle and other property. As the House is aware, the Government have taken prompt and vigorous measures for affording gratuitous relief as far as possible to the distressed population; and it has also been clearly stated by the Dewan in this House last week, that the Government consider it their primary duty to render all the help they can to relieve distress and to facilitate the task of reconstruction. At the same time, it has to be recognised that the situation is so grave that it cannot be fully or adequately met by the single-handed efforts of the Government. A great deal will necessarily depend on the generosity and active co-operation of the general public. It is very gratifying to learn that, all over the affected tracts, public-spirited citizens have organised vigorous measures of relief, and with the hearty co-operation of the officers of Government have been able to rescue human lives and prevent starvation very effectively. An all-Travancore Relief Committee has, as you know, been started in Trivandrum and is doing vigorous work. Government fervently hope that by these means the acuteness of the disaster will be considerably alleviated.

Sir, when last week a motion was submitted to you for the adjournment of the House on account of the floods, some of the non-official members suggested that the consideration of the budget should be postponed till we became fully cognisant of the effects of the flood. It was stated that a budget prepared on the basis of normal conditions and which did not take into account the new situation created by the floods was not worth the paper on which it was printed.

It is true that the recent widespread disaster must necessarily affect our finances, both directly and indirectly. In the first place, it may entail suspensions as well as remissions of land revenue. It may also involve the distribution of agricultural loans on a much larger scale than before. The disturbance to trade and production will also affect our receipts under all the other main heads of revenue—particularly Excise, Customs and Forests. Secondly, we shall have also to incur much direct expenditure for the repair of the damages caused by the floods. In these circumstances, a budget prepared without taking these new factors into account must necessarily be defective, and its revision to suit the altered conditions would of course have been eminently desirable. But, unfortunately, we are not in a position to postpone the consideration of the budget. Under the Legislative Council Regulation, the budget has to be presented to the House and passed by it before the commencement

[Mr. K. George.]

of the next year and we have only two weeks before us. Besides, notwithstanding the flood, the ordinary administration of the Government has to be carried on, and for this, the necessary funds have to be voted by the Council. On the other hand, the preparation of a new budget on the basis of the new conditions, of which we are at present largely ignorant, within the short time at our disposal, is absolutely impossible; and even if such an attempt were to be made, the results would be anything but reliable. Presumably, the object of the members in making this proposal was not so much that a correct forecast of the income and expenditure of the next year should be placed before them as that adequate provision should be made in the budget for relief of distress and for the repairs to public works damaged by the floods. Government are in full sympathy with this object, and they have, therefore, made the following additional provisions for the purpose in the preliminary budget already issued:—

1. The grant to the P. W. D. for works has been raised by Rs. 3 lakhs. This amount will, it is believed, be adequate for the restoration of damaged communications, bridges and irrigation and drainage works, and at the same time for providing employment for labourers thrown out of work temporarily. If, in the course of the year, more funds are found to be necessary for this purpose, Government will go to the House with proposals for allotment of additional funds. It will of course be necessary to entertain additional establishments to spend the additional sums now provided or hereafter to be provided as the existing P. W. D. establishment cannot cope with the additional work.

2. The provision under Debt Head—Agricultural Loans, has been raised from Rs. 1,50,000 to Rs. 5,50,000. The additional provision of Rs. 4 lakhs now made is for advancing loans for the rehabilitation of the agricultural population in the affected tracts. Here again a special agency may have to be created to avoid delay.

As for gratuitous relief, from information received so far, it is gathered that the need for such relief will cease by the end of the current year and that the sum of Rs. 48,000 placed by Government already at the disposal of the revenue officers and the Municipal Presidents would be sufficient.

In view of the additional unforeseen financial commitments of Government, a few of the new items of expenditure referred to in para 6 of the Account Officer's Memorandum which could stand postponement have been omitted from the budget, resulting in an aggregate reduction of Rs. 35,275 in expenditure.

The items omitted are :—

(i) Opening of a special survey class at Trivandrum Rs. 6,000.

(ii) Provision for revising the Land Revenue Manual. Rs. 4,025.

(iii) Provision for developing the resources of the Central Prison. Rs. 5,150

(iv) Deputation of a Veterinary Inspector to the Veterinary College at Lahore for post-graduate study Rs. 1,500.

(v) Deputation of a Fishery Inspector to Japan Rs. 2,900.

(vi) Additional provision for the purchase of apparatus for the Bacteriological Laboratory Rs. 12,000.

(vii) Provision for the opening of an Anchal line from Kotamangalam to Munnar Rs. 3,700.

The demand for grants under the various heads, when made, will exclude these items. As regards the last, however, *viz.*, the opening of an Anchal line from Kotamangalam to Munnar, although the specific provision is omitted, it is not proposed to give up the opening of the line itself. It will be opened, but the necessary funds will be found by abolishing the existing through line from Kumili to Santanpara for which there is provision in the budget.

Now, to proceed to the consideration of the estimates themselves, our forecasts of revenue and expenditure for the current and the next year, according to the preliminary issue of the budget, were as follows:—

	Revised Estimate. 1099.	*Budget Estimate.* 1100.
Revenue	200·52	198·19
Expenditure	197·03	196·33
Surplus	3·49	1·86

These forecasts were made on the basis of the actual receipts and expenditure of the first nine months of the current year, and as revenue and expenditure were progressing normally, there is every reason to believe that they would have been fully justified, but for the unhappy events which have recently intervened. Now, with the modifications I have enumerated above, the revised estimate of the current year and the budget estimate of the ensuing year will work out as follows:—

	Revised Estimate. 1099.	*Budget Estimate.* 1100.
Revenue	200·52	198·19
Expenditure	197·03	198·98
Surplus + or Deficit − ...	+3·49	−·79

In submitting these estimates to the House, I am aware—and I have already admitted—that they are in a great measure uncertain. Although the revised estimates anticipate a revenue of Rs. 200·52 lakhs, it is unlikely that this amount will be realised; but in the absence of definite data, I have not ventured to make any alterations in the estimate. Expenditure also will be somewhat higher, owing to the additional amounts sanctioned for relief measures. Consequently, this year will probably end in a deficit instead of the substantial surplus which we had anticipated. The estimates of revenue being

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thus somewhat uncertain, I do not propose to examine them in detail. I have, however, to refer to one or two matters of special interest. As we had anticipated, salt duty was brought down by the Government of India to the old rate of Br. Re. 1-4-0 per maund, but this has not affected our receipts under that head, as we had estimated at the higher rate of duty only for the first six and a half months of the current year. Our receipts under Railways are somewhat gratifying. In the budget estimate of the current year, we had provided a sum of Rs. 1 lakh as the amount which we would probably have to pay to the South Indian Railway on account of the loss in the working of the railway; but instead of a loss we are going to receive a sum of nearly Rs. ½ lakh as our share of the net surplus of the year. From the statement of account for the year ended 31st March, 1924, received from the Chief Auditor, South Indian Railway Company, it is seen that, while the gross receipts of the entire Travancore Railway including the British Section for the year remained practically stationary, there was an appreciable reduction in working expenses and interest charges. The saving under the latter was due to the fact that the interest charges came down owing to the renewal of the debentures at a lower rate of interest. The bulk of these debentures now bears interest only at 4 per cent. per annum as against 6 per cent. previously.

Coming to the expenditure of the current year, we are on surer ground as no expenditure can be incurred without specific provision of funds. We budgeted for a total expenditure of Rs. 198·60 lakhs; but according to the revised estimate, we expect to spend only Rs. 197·03 lakhs. This estimate is not likely to be very materially altered. We had provided a sum of Rs. 2,69,200 for leave allowances in the budget of the current year. It is seen that practically the entire amount will lapse. On the other hand, we have given additional grants to the extent of Rs. 2,06,200 under non-votable and Rs. 2,52,100 under votable heads. Under Forests, the actual expenditure is expected to be about Rs. ¾ lakh less than the Budget, the saving being mainly under Conservancy and Works due to less sales of timber and the consequent smaller amount of *kolevila* paid. A sum of Rs. 1 lakh was, as usual, provided for His Highness the Maha Raja's tours outside the State. The whole of this provision will be saved. Under Education, the expenditure will be nearly Rs. 1 lakh below the original estimate. The bulk of this is under leave allowances. Under Devaswoms, an expenditure of Rs. 7·61 lakhs was provided for over and above the usual contribution of Rs. 16 lakhs to the Devaswom Fund; but the actual expenditure is expected to be Rs. ·66 lakh more, owing to the fact that the expenditure on account of the Murajapam ceremony is expected to amount to Rs. 4·30 lakhs as against the budget provision of Rs. 3·70 lakhs. The expenditure on Public Works will be about Rs. 1·18 lakhs in excess of the budget. This is due to the grant of additional funds for means of communication in the northern taluks of the State, for the construction of the Palace at Delhi and for the survey of a Railway line from Trivandrum to Nagercoil.

The budget estimate of 1100 is prepared for a revenue of Rs. 198·19 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 198·98 lakhs, leaving a deficit of Rs. ·79 lakh. Here also, as the Council will no doubt tell me, the actual revenue may fall short of expectations. But as we are really groping in the dark regarding the effects of the flood on our revenue next year, I have not attempted a revision of the estimates already prepared. Suffice it to say that, in all probability, the expected revenue may not be fully realized, while the expenditure we may have to incur may also be larger than we have provided for, with the result that the deficit of the year may be much larger than we now contemplate. The uncertainty of our revenues next year renders it unnecessary to give any explanation of the details of the estimates; but I would refer to the estimates under two major heads, *viz.*, Excise and Railways. Our estimate under the former is Rs. ·88 lakh in excess of the revised estimate for the current year. This is due to the introduction of the independent shop system in the taluks of Vaikam, Shertallai, Kunnatnad and Parur, from the beginning of the next year, in place of the farming system which now prevails in those taluks. Under Railways, we are estimating a net income of Rs. 1 lakh. Although the net surplus from this source this year is less than Rs. ½ lakh, it has to be mentioned that, while the first half-year of 1923-24 ended in a deficit of Rs. ·93 lakh, there was a net gain of Rs. 1·33 lakhs in the second half-year. If this improvement is maintained, our share of the net surplus next year ought to amount to over Rs. 2½ lakhs. But I have put down only a receipt of Rs. 1 lakh under this head.

Turning next to expenditure, I should at the outset mention that we are not making any provision for leave allowances next year. In the budget estimate of the current year, we included a provision for leave allowances at the rate of 5 per cent. of salaries in ordinary departments and 2½ per cent. in departments which enjoy periodical vacations. As I stated in my budget speech last year, this was a tentative arrangement. I then promised to re-examine the question after a year and make any changes that experience might suggest. It is now found on examination that the actual expenditure on salaries in most of the departments under the non-votable and votable heads will be below the provision made exclusive of leave allowances. Small excesses are found in a few departments, and in one department, *viz.*, the Anchal, the expenditure is expected to be in excess of the 5 per cent. addition provided. Thus there is really no advantage in making any specific provision for this purpose. So long as the expenditure in most departments is within the allotted grant and so long also as no uniform rate can be provided for all the departments, there can be no objection in omitting the provision altogether. But it may happen that the actual expenditure in some departments may be in excess of the grants voted by the Council. No excess under variable charges can take place unless supplementary grants are allowed; but the excess over the total demand sanctioned may happen to be due to excess expenditure under Salaries and Establishment on account of leave allowances paid. These are, however,

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inevitable charges payable under the rules of the Travancore Service Regulations and the excesses may also come to light only after the year is over. In such cases, the best course appears to be to point out the excesses in the annual Appropriation Report which is being furnished to the members of the Council.

For next year, we are budgeting for an expenditure of Rs. 198·98 lakhs or Rs. 1·95 lakhs in excess of the revised estimate of the current year. The real increase, however, is Rs. 6·25 lakhs if we take into consideration the extraordinary expenditure of Rs. 4·30 lakhs incurred in the current year on account of the Murajapam. The estimate, besides making full provision for the normal requirements of departments and Rs. 3 lakhs for special expenditure in connection with the floods, includes a sum of Rs. 1,02,700 on account of various departmental schemes proposed to be introduced in the next year. The number of such new items originally provided was 69; but as I have stated earlier in my speech, a few of them which are not of an urgent character have been omitted. There is, however, one scheme for which the Government would have liked to make some provision in the next year's budget. I refer to the scheme of water-supply to the town of Trivandrum. The full scheme as submitted by the late Assistant Engineer Mr. Bannerjea was estimated to cost nearly Rs. 55 lakhs. A modified scheme with a more restricted scope has now been submitted by the Chief Engineer, the cost of which will be only about Rs. 18½ lakhs. The scheme has not yet been examined by the Government and so no provision is made for it in the budget. But the Government hope to consider and pass final orders on the subject early next year; and if it is decided to proceed with the scheme, the necessary funds will be asked to be voted at a future session of the Council.

I shall now briefly deal with the items in the budget estimate which call for special comment. Under Forests, a sum of Rs. ·60 lakh is provided in excess of the revised estimate. This is intended to be spent on conservancy and works in order to realise the budgeted revenue. The additional expenditure will be all the more necessary as it is likely that we may have to replenish our stock in the depôts, a portion of which may have been washed away by the floods. The expenditure on Education is expected to be Rs. 2½ lakhs in excess of the current year's expenditure. This brings up our educational expenditure to Rs. 39 lakhs, which is about 20 per cent. of our entire annual income. The increased expenditure of Rs. 2½ lakhs is chiefly due to the following causes:—

(a) Nearly Rs. ½ lakh is on account of the bifurcation of His Highness the Maha Raja's College into two colleges, one for Science and the other for Arts. The Council is aware of the circumstances which necessitated this step, and they were clearly set forth in the Government Order issued on the subject.

(*b*) Increase of about Rs. 1·26 lakhs is provided under English and Vernacular School Education, chiefly on account of the appointment of additional teachers consequent on the increase in the number of classes and divisions of classes.

(*c*) Under grants-in-aid, there is an excess of nearly Rs. ½ lakh. It may be pointed out that, out of the total allotment of Rs. 8·07 lakhs under grants, Rs. ·45 lakh is for compensating private school managers for the fee concessions which may be allowed by them to the depressed and educationally backward classes.

Devaswom expenditure next year is expected to be Rs. 4·74 lakhs less than the revised estimate owing chiefly to the absence of the Murajapam. The provision under P. W. D. is Rs. 2·66 lakhs in excess of the revised estimate of the current year The reason for the excess has been already explained by me. I would, however, like to mention one point, *viz.*, that from next year the expenditure on military works and that for the construction of Anchal buildings will not be included in the P. W. D budget, but will be provided under the heads "Army" and "Anchal— Capital account" respectively. I mention this as the fact has to be borne in mind in comparing the allotments from 1100 onwards with those of previous years. The increase of Rs. ·94 lakh under Army is mainly due to a difference in accounting, it being proposed to include in the military budget, in future, the expenditure on military works as well as military pensions. The apparent saving of Rs. ·58 lakh under superannuation allowances and pensions is due to the reason just stated. The budget estimate under Miscellaneous is Rs. ·90 lakh less than the current year's anticipated expenditure. This is chiefly on account of the fact that our expenditure next year on the British Empire Exhibition is expected to be only Rs. 10,000 as against Rs. 90,000 in the current year.

Now, Sir, I shall bring my remarks to a close. It is possible, as I have already indicated, that the current and the next year may be deficit years; but I would ask the members not to be alarmed about it as the deficits will be only temporary and due to abnormal causes. When our normal financial position, now obscured by the catastrophic floods, is restored, I am sure that it will not be found to be wanting in either soundness or stability. I would also assure the Council that our present resources in cash, short-dated bank deposits and investments in Government securities are quite adequate to meet our present requirements.

I am sorry that, owing to unavoidable causes, it has not been possible to supply printed copies of my speech now. I think I shall be able to issue it in the coure of the day.

LEGISLATION.

THE CHITTIES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

PRESIDENT: We will proceed to the consideration of the Chitties Regulation Amendment Bill,

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I beg to move that the Chitties Regulation Amendment Bill be taken up for consideration by the House. It was introduced at the last meeting of the Council, and it was then considered not necessary to refer it to a Select Committee. The Bill itself consists of only one Section and it does not stand in need of any amendment. No motion of amendments has been received. Under these circumstances, I think it may be read now.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I second it.

PRESIDENT: The Chitties Regulation Amendment Bill has been proposed for consideration and the proposal has been seconded. I take it that the House accepts the motion.

The motion was carried.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I beg to move that the Bill be read again in this House on a future occasion of which due notice will be given.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to second it.

The Council adjourned at 12-25 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. the next day.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

Saturday, 2nd August, 1924.

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, at Eleven Thirty-three of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Orders for Goods exhibited at the British Empire Exhibition.

25. MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, as a result of the exhibits sent to the British Empire Exhibition, any orders have been received by any of the mercantile firms in the State for any kind of goods exhibited there?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the names of the firms or merchants that have received such orders and the value and the quantity of goods so ordered?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Government have no information about orders, if any, received by mercantile firms. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has sent to the Government a list of addresses of thirty-one wholesale buyers who have made enquiries of Travancore products. The list has been sent to the Director of Industries for circulation among interested firms and it has also been published in the *Government Gazette* dated the 29th July, 1924.

(*b*) In view to the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

Retirement of Mr. Thomas Varghese, Assistant Sirkar Vakil.

26. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state on what grounds Mr. Thomas Varghese, Assistant Sirkar Vakil, Kottayam, was given another extension of service now?

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

(*b*) (i) Is it a fact that the Government, under Mr. Viraraghava Aiyangar, passed final orders retiring Mr. Thomas Varghese, and that the fact was communicated to Mr. Varghese?

(ii) If so, why did the Government subsequently cancel that order and give an extension of service to Mr. Varghese?

(iii) At whose instance was this done?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to place on the table a copy of the order sanctioning a further extension of service to Mr. Varghese?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The Head Sirkar Vakil recommended that Mr. Varghese should be granted one year's further extension of service with a view to enable him to close successfully the conduct of certain important Sirkar suits of which he had already been in charge. Before doing so in writing, he explained personally to the Dewan the necessity for the extension. In the absence of the Dewan, orders were passed refusing further extension. On a further representation by the Head Sirkar Vakil to the Officer in charge of the Administration, the latter ordered that the question should lie over for disposal by the Dewan. Government then sanctioned the original recommendation of Mr. Ananda Rao in the circumstances mentioned above.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any instance in which the case of an officer whose retirement was sanctioned has been taken up again and further extension granted?

PRESIDENT: It is not a supplementary question. It does not arise out of the question asked and the answer furnished to it.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do the Government think that no man now employed in the service as Sirkar Vakil or to be appointed hereafter will be able to cope with the cases that are now entrusted to Mr. Thomas Varghese?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are persons who can cope with the work.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then why was the extension granted?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because Mr. Thomas Varghese was in charge of five civil suits which involved extensive landed interests. He has perambulated the land and is thoroughly conversant with the facts and circumstances of each of these cases.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not possible for Mr. Thomas Varghese to be able to instruct the man who is to succeed him?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Local knowledge can be obtained only by perambulation, not by instruction.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not possible for Mr. Varghese before he hands over charge to his successor to instruct him? Cannot the successor perambulate the area?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, he can; but that will entail additional expenditure to Government in the shape of travelling allowance.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what the opposite party does in this case?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this question.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is not this a justification for extending the service of Sirkar Vakils till they die?

PRESIDENT: I must disallow that question. No question of death arises now. Your question is hypothetical.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Supposing this case is not closed before the end of this year; will they extend the service of Mr. Varghese?

PRESIDENT: That again is hypothetical.

Dr. K. Raman Tampi's Claims to act as Darbar Physician.

27. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state who was appointed Ag. Darbar Physician in the last leave vacancy of the permanent Darbar Physician, Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan?

(*b*) Is not Dr. K. Raman Tampi senior to Mr. S. T. Ponnuswami Pillai?

(*c*) If so, why have Dr. Raman Tampi's claims been overlooked in filling the leave vacancies of the Darbar Physician in the past?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Mr. S. T. Ponnuswami Pillai was put in charge of the Darbar Physician's duties.

(*b*) No question of seniority arises as between Dr. K. Raman Tampi and Mr. Ponnuswami Pillai as the two officers belong to different departments.

(*c*) This does not arise in view to the answer to part (*b*).

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In view of the fact that Dr. Tampi is senior in service and possesses high English qualifications from English Universities, will the Government be pleased to state why the Darbar Physician did not recommend Dr. Tampi to act as Darbar Physician?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is there.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai]

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not the custom that when the Darbar Physician takes leave the doctor in charge of the Military Hospital is put in charge of the Darbar Physician's office?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no such established custom.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there not instances?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There might have been instances.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not a fact that the Darbar Physician did not recommend Dr. Tampi because of an ill-feeling?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think, Sir, that is not a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: It is not a supplementary question. The Darbar Physician has nothing to do with that appointment.

MR M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then why was not the Military Surgeon appointed to be in charge of the Darbar Physician's post?

PRESIDENT: There is the answer.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is that not the custom?

PRESIDENT: You have already put that question and it has been answered.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not a fact that Dr. Madhavan Pillai acted as the Darbar Physician when the permanent Darbar Physician went on leave?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice of that question.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Were Dr. Perkins and Dr. Miller acting at any time as Darbar Physicians when they were in charge of the Military Hospital?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Dr. Perkins acted.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do not the Government think that this is an injustice?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of opinion and it does not arise at all out of the question already answered.

Dr. K. Raman Tampi's Claims to act as Darbar Physician.

28. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state who was appointed Ag. Darbar Physician in the last leave vacancy of the permanent Darbar Physician, Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan?

(*b*) Is not Dr. K. Raman Tampi senior to Mr. S. T. Ponnuswami Pillai?

(*c*) If so, why have Dr. Raman Tampi's claims been overlooked in filling the leave vacancies of the Darbar Physician in the past?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 27

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Part (*b*) അതിനുപറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടി "No question of seniority arises as between Dr. K. Raman Tampi and Mr. Ponnuswami Pillai as the two officers belong to different departments." ഇവ എങ്ങനെ രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളാകുന്നു എന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): ഒന്നു മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ; മറ്റൊന്നു മിലിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മിലിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ മി. രാമൻതമ്പി എന്തു ചെയ്യുന്നു?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ മി. രാമൻതമ്പി ഡാക്ടർ ആണ്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇപ്പോഴം ഡർബാർ ഫിസിഷ്യൻ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ മാസത്തെ അവധി എടുത്താൽ മി. പൊന്നുസ്വാമിപിള്ളയുടെ സ്ഥാനത്തിരിക്കുന്നവൎക്കു മാത്രമേ ആക്ടിംഗ് ഡർബാർ ഫിസിഷ്യൻെറ ജോലി നോക്കുവാൻ പാടുള്ളു എന്നുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: It is a hypothetical question; it does not arise.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): It arises, Sir. The answer to the question is: "No question of seniority arises as between Dr. K. Raman Tampi and Mr. Ponnuswami Pillai as the two officers belong to different departments."

PRESIDENT: Exactly. But you are putting a hypothetical question, *viz.*, if the Darbar Physician goes on leave for two months or three months, what will be done? That question cannot be allowed.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കു തമ്മിൽ യാതൊരു ബന്ധവുമില്ലേ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): സാധാരണമായിട്ടു ബന്ധമില്ല. രണ്ടും രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണല്ലോ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eran'el* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇവിടത്തെ മെഡിക്കൽ സർവീസിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾ മറ്റേതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ പോയാൽ അവിടത്തെ ബന്ധം വിട്ടതായി ഗവർൺമെൻറ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: There is the answer; these are two different departments.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും ഇന്നതാണെന്നു വ്യാഖ്യാനം കൊണ്ടു മനസ്സിലായി. ഒരാൾ അതിൽ ഒന്നിൽ നിന്നു മറെറാന്നിൽ പോയാൽ അവിടത്തെ അവകാശം മുഴുവനും വിട്ടുപോകുമോ എന്നാണു ചോദ്യം?

PRESIDENT: Of course, it follows. If the departments are different, it means that.

Opium and Ganja Stock.

29. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the quantities of opium and ganja written off the accounts during the years 1096, 1098 and up to the end of Dhanu, in 1099, on the recommendation of the Excise Commissioner, and their value;

(ii) the quantities of opium and ganja purchased from the Madras Stores during these years;

(iii) the quantities sold for consumption during these years, and the value thereof; and

(iv) the quantities that remained in the stores in the Excise Commissioner's office at the close of each of these years and their value?

(*b*) Has the result of the stock-taking of opium been regularly reported?

(*c*) Who is the officer in charge of the opium and ganja stores and what are his responsibilities?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that there were instances of theft of ganja from the stores in the Excise Commissioner's office in 1097 and in the previous years, and, if so, whether such instances were reported, the dates of such reports, the names of the persons involved in the same, the recommendations made by the Commissioner for punishing such persons and the action taken by the Government on such reports?

(*e*) Are they aware of the fact that the rules and standing orders relating to the storage and issue of these drugs in the central stores in the Excise Commissioner's office and in the stores of the several Assistant Excise Commissioners' offices are not strictly adhered to?

(*f*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will they be pleased to look into the whole matter and state the result thereof?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) (i)

Quantity of opium written off.

Year.	Quantity.		Value.		
	Seers.	Tolas.	Rs.	Ch.	C.
1096	"	"	"	"	"
1098	"	"	"	"	"
1099 (first five months) ...	"	1	"	24	15

Quantity of ganja written off.

Year	Seers	Tolas	Rs.	Ch.	C.
1096 by the Excise Commissioner ...	21	34·75	510	7	9
1096 with Government sanction ...	3	60·125			
1098 by the Excise Commissioner ...	6	68·5	157	10	0
1098 with Government sanction ...	...	5			
1099 (first five months) by the Excise Commissioner ...	18	60·5	427	23	3

(*a*) (ii)

Year.	Opium.	Ganja.
	Seers.	Seers.
1096 ...	5,000	5,000
1098 ...	4,000	1,000
1099 (first five months) ...	2,500	1,500

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

(a) (iii)

Year.		Seers.	Tolas.	Rs.	Ch.	C.
			Opium.			
1096	...	5,285	28·125	2,88,844	15	4
1098	...	4,703	9	3,13,943	25	9
			Ganja.			
1096	...	4,408	28	93,012	6	6
1098	...	2,285	...	52,039	23	15
			(a) (iv) *Opium.*			
1096	...	162	16·315	10,401	2	0
1098	...	276	16·315	19,679	7	0
			Ganja.			
1096	...	691	25	15,744	9	4
1098	...	1,093	16·5	24,897	4	0

(b) Yes.

(c) There are opium and ganja stores in the Excise Commissioner's office, in the Excise Division offices, and in the sub-treasuries and taluk offices in Quilon, Kottayam and Devicolam. In the Excise Commissioner's office, the officer in charge of the stores is the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Excise Commissioner's office; in the Division Offices, the Assistant Excise Commissioners; and in the sub-treasuries and taluk offices, the Sub-Treasury Officers or Tahsildars as the case may be. There is also a storekeeper attached to the stores in the Excise Commissioner's office, who keeps one of the double-lock keys. The officers in charge of the stores are responsible for the safe custody of the stuff, the receipt and issue of the same and the maintenance of correct accounts.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

(e) Government had occasion recently to notice that one of the rules relating to the storage of the drugs in the central stores in the Excise Commissioner's office was not strictly observed.

(f) The rules relating to the storage of drugs in the central stores in the Excise Commissioner's office have been found to be defective and steps are being taken to remove the defects.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What are the respective functions of the Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of the store, and the store-keeper? This is with respect to part (c) of my question.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Under the rules for the storage and issue of ganja, issued by the Government on the 15th August, 1907, as modified by the orders issued in

1909, 1913, 1917 and 1918, the functions of the store-keeper have been distinctly stated. Those rules do not specify the functions of the Assistant Excise Commissioner attached to the Excise Commissioner's office.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was the store-keeper Paramesvaran Pillai in any way punished for loss of ganja in the Central Stores?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He was punished.

PRESIDENT: Is that question supplemental to (*d*) ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: Your question is: "Are the Government aware that there were instances of theft of ganja from the stores in the Excise Commissioner's Office in 1097 and in the previous years, and, if so, whether such instances were reported, the dates of such reports, the names of the persons involved in the same, the recommendations made by the Commissioner for punishing such persons and the action taken by the Government on such reports?" The answer is in the negative. It means that there is no reported case of theft from the stores. Your question does not arise out of this.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was not a part of the charge brought against Mr. James, Reserve Inspector, that the ganja found in his house was abstracted from the stores of the central office?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware of the fact that these rules relate only to the storage and issue of those drugs when the central stores were at Quilon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do not the existing rules require the stores to be at Quilon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have they been modified?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The stores have been transferred from Quilon to Trivandrum under the orders of the Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was the transfer made by a Government notification?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware of the fact that the storage and issue of these drugs in the stores at Trivandrum are not governed by these rules but by departmental rules framed subsequently?

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are both Government rules and departmental rules.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Can departmental rules supersede the Government rules?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They have not superseded the Government rules.

PRESIDENT: Do not the Government rules say that the stores should be at Quilon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The rules issued in 1907 refer to the central stores at Quilon. But, with the sanction of the Government, the stores have been removed from Quilon to Trivandrum.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is whether there was any notification.

PRESIDENT: You have already asked that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to call for the departmental rules and reconsider the whole matter in the light of these rules?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The whole set of rules is being reconsidered. A set of draft revised rules has been forwarded by the Excise Commissioner These rules are engaging the attention of the Government.

Opium and Ganja Stock.

30. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the quantities of opium and ganja written off the accounts during the years 1096, 1098 and up to the end of Dhanu, 1099, on the recommendation of the Excise Commissioner, and their value;

(ii) the quantities of opium and ganja purchased from the Madras Stores during these years;

(iii) the quantities sold for consumption during these years, and the value thereof; and

(iv) the quantities that remained in the stores in the Excise Commissioner's office, at the close of each of these years and their value?

(*b*) Has the result of the stock-taking of opium been regularly reported?

(*c*) Who is the officer in charge of the opium and ganja stores and what are his responsibilities?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that there were instances of theft of ganja from the stores in the Excise Commissioner's office in 1097 and in the previous years, and, if so, whether such instances were reported,

the dates of such reports, the names of the persons involved in the same, the recommendations made by the Commissioner for punishing such persons and the action taken by the Government on such reports?

(*e*) Are they aware of the fact that the rules and standing orders relating to the storage and issue of these drugs in the central stores in the Excise Commissioner's office and in the stores of the several Assistant Excise Commissioner's offices are not strictly adhered to?

(*f*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will they be pleased to look into the whole matter and state the result thereof?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 29.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) (iv) "Will the Government be pleased to state the quantities of opium and ganja that remained in the Excise Commissioner's office, at the close of each of these years and their value?" അതാണ് എന്റെ ചോദ്യം. അതിനുള്ള മറുപടി എന്താണെന്ന് ഇതിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is given in the statement.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I beg your pardon.

കഞ്ചാസ്റ്റോർസിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അസിസ്റ്റന്റു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ചുമതല ഇന്നതാണെന്നു രൂൾസിൽ വിവരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നുപറഞ്ഞു. ഇത്രയുംകാലം കഞ്ചാകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതും വാങ്ങീട്ടുള്ളതും അസിസ്റ്റന്റു കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ചുമതലയില്ലാതെയാണോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു രൂൾസനുസരിച്ചു അസിസ്റ്റന്റു കമ്മിഷണർക്ക് പല പ്രത്യേകചുമതലകളും ഉണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു രൂൾസ് ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ഉണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): അതനുസരിച്ചു നടക്കാത്തതിനു എപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): എന്തു ശിക്ഷയാണ്?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*Secretary to Government*): The orders awarding punishments are confidential.

[President.]

Morale of the Excise Department.

31. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they are aware that there is a strong feeling in the country that corruption and other malpractices are rampant in the Excise Department; and

(ii) whether they are aware that, in the recent Excise Conference held in the Excise Commissioner's office, under the presidency of the Excise Commissioner, for concerting measures for the improvement of the Excise Department, one of the Senior Second Grade Excise Commissioners stated that, under the present system, no officer of the department was free from corruption, and that, as such, the whole system should be overhauled?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state whether the Excise Commissioner has forwarded the detailed minutes of the meeting and the written memoranda submitted by some of the Assistant Excise Commissioners, and, if not, will they be pleased to call for them and examine the same along with the proposals submitted by the Excise Commissioner, and refer such memoranda to the Excise Committee appointed to examine the proposals of the Commissioner?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) The answer is in the negative.

(ii) No such statement was made by any Assistant Excise Commissioner at the conference in the Excise Commissioner's office.

(*b*) Government have called for and perused the papers connected with the conference which the Excise Commissioner held with his Assistants for considering the proposals to be placed before the committee appointed in pursuance of the resolution moved by Mr. Madhava Variar at the first session of the Legislative Council, regarding the prohibition of the manufacture and importation of liquor. They do not consider it necessary to refer all these papers to the committee, as Mr. Van Ross has already placed before it a memorandum based upon the discussions at the conference and as the committee has practically wound up its labours.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to say whether they have not received complaints from many people regarding malpractices and corruption in this department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): From whom?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Shop-keepers and all sorts of people.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The question seems to be indefinite, Sir.

PRESIDENT : Complaints in what shape, Mr. Hoogewerf?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Complaints that officers were receiving *kattippanam* and so on and so forth.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have seen newspaper reports and references by members in the Council to *kattippanam* and so forth.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not a rich and influential Roman Catholic gentleman from Minachil, who was a member of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly last year, come to Trivandrum lately and present a complaint about the manner in which the recent Abkari auctions were conducted, bringing serious allegations of corruption against the officers concerned?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I saw such a complaint in a newspaper.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I ask whether this complaint was personally presented to the Government.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that the members of the Popular Assembly, including leading vakils like Mr. Mallur Govinda Pillai and some of the leading members of this Council, have brought to the notice of the Assembly and the Council the malpractices rampant in the department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There have been some complaints both in the Council and in the Assembly.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have not most of the leading newspapers in the State brought to the notice of the Government the malpractices and corruptions said to be rampant in the department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There have also been references to corruption in newspapers.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that such an impression has gained ground in the country, especially after the present head of the department had the boldness to recommend the cancellation of a notification which appeared in the *Gazette* bringing the taluks held by Mr. Nadar under the independent shop system?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I have one more question. Are the Government aware that the Head of the Administration has stated in court that Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar had stated during a conference that corruption—

PRESIDENT: Do you mean the head of the department?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, the head of the department. Did not the head of the department state in court that

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai]

Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar had stated in a conference that corruption was rampant in the department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The deposition of Mr. Van Ross is not before the Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has it not been reported in newspapers?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The report was to the effect that Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar spoke about corruption, but not that it was rampant—

PRESIDENT: Mr. Van Ross's deposition is not before the Government, and it is only after seeing the authorised version that anything can be said in regard to its contents.

Morale of the Excise Department.

32. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they are aware that there is a strong feeling in the country that corruption and other malpractices are rampant in the Excise Department; and

(ii) whether they are aware that, in the recent Excise Conference held in the Excise Commissioner's office, under the presidency of the Excise Commissioner, for concerting measures for the improvement of the Excise Department, one of the senior Second Grade Excise Commissioners stated that, under the present system, no officer of the department was free from corruption, and that, as such, the whole system should be overhauled?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state whether the Excise Commissioner has forwarded the detailed minutes of the conference and the written memoranda submitted by some of the Assistant Excise Commissioners, and, if not, will they be pleased to call for them and examine the same along with the proposals submitted by the Excise Commissioner, and refer those memoranda to the Excise Committee appointed to examine the proposals of the Commissioner?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 31.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഷാപ്പുലേലത്തിനു മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു പോയപ്പോഴും വടശ്ശേരി ഷാപ്പു ന്യായപ്രകാരം ലേലം നടത്തീട്ടില്ല എന്നു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു പരാതി കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടൊ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെ പരസ്യമായി നടക്കുന്ന ലേലം കൂടുതൽ തുകയ്ക്കു വിളികൊള്ളുന്ന

വക്ക് കൊടുക്കാതെ ഇരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിനു വല്ല ദൃഷ്ടാന്തവും പറയാമൊ?

PRESIDENT: How does that arise out of your question?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Yes, it arises. In the answer it is stated that corruption and other malpractices are rampant. This is also included in that.

PRESIDENT: You put a question and the member in charge has claimed notice.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): That is on another point. I am putting a different question now.

PRESIDENT: What is it?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തസഹിതം പറയാം. ൧൦,൦൫൦ രൂപായ്ക്കു ഒരാൾ വിളികേൾക്കുന്നു. അയാൾക്കു കൊടുക്കാതെ ൧൦,൦൦൦ രൂപായ്ക്കു വിളികേൾക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു ലേലം സ്ഥിരപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഏതെങ്കിലും ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ പറയാമൊ?

PRESIDENT: You need not give examples. Please put a definite question.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെയുള്ള പരാതികൾ ഉണ്ടോ? അതായത് ഒരു ലേലത്തിൽ ൧൦,൦൫൦ രൂപയ്ക്കു ഒരു ഷാപ്പ് എടുക്കാൻ ഒരാൾ തയാറാകുമ്പോൾ അയാൾക്കു കൊടുക്കാതെ ൧൦,൦൦൦ രൂപയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തതായി ദൃഷ്ടാന്തം പറയാമൊ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനെ അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ ഗവർമെന്റിനു ദയവുണ്ടാകുമൊ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): അന്വേഷിക്കാം.

Resolutions and Interpellations on Excise and Medical Departments.

33. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of resolutions and interpellations relating to the Excise and Medical Departments, respectively, received by them since the new Council was formed;

(*b*) the number admitted and the number disallowed;

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(c) the subject-matter of the resolutions and interpellations disallowed;

(d) (i) the number of resolutions and interpellations relating to corruption of officers in the Excise Department, among those admitted; and

(ii) the number of questions answered out of the total number admitted, and the number remaining to be answered?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*). The total number of questions relating to the Medical Department and the Excise Department disallowed up to the close of the last session is 10 and 18 respectively. Three of the former and four of the latter were disallowed on the ground that they were once answered. The remaining were disallowed as they contravened other rules relating to interpellations. The resolutions disallowed numbered two, both in respect of the Excise Department. With these figures, the member will himself be in a position to find out the number of interpellations and resolutions brought forward and admitted, with the help of the several notices, copies of which have been furnished to him from time to time.

(*c*) A list of the resolutions and interpellations disallowed is laid on the table.*

Resolutions and Interpellations on Excise and Medical Departments.

34. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of resolutions and interpellations relating to the Excise and Medical Departments, respectively, received by them since the new Council was formed;

(*b*) the numbers admitted and the numbers disallowed;

(*c*) the subject-matter of the resolutions and interpellations disallowed; and

(*d*) (i) the number of resolutions and interpellations relating to corruption of officers in the Excise Department, among those admitted: and

(ii) the number of questions answered out of the total number admitted, and the number remaining to be answered?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 33.

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* *Vide* Appendix—page 73.

Appendix.

Vide Answer to Question No. 33.

Interpellations disallowed.

Excise.

*1. Mr. K. Padmanabhan Tampi's Report *re.* tappers' strike at Arukutty.

*2. Cause of compulsory retirement of Mr. C. E. Kesava Pillai, Assistant Excise Commissioner.

*3. Movement against tapping of cocoanut and other palms by Ezhavas.

*4. Liquor boycott.

5. Abkari policy of Government.

6. Policy of Government *re.* temperance.

*7. Monopoly system and sale of salt in the Trivandrum Port Salt Depot.

*8. Flood in Tamaracolam Factory.

9. Retirement of Mr. C. E. Kesava Pillai, Assistant Excise Commissioner.

*10. Corruption in the Excise Department.

11. Employment of Excise staff on the frontier.

*12. Introduction of the Independent Shop System.

*13. Confidential orders to the Excise subordinates to put down the temperance movement.

*14. Illegal gratification received by Excise Officers.

*15. Refund of amount spent by Government *in re.* Van Ross Case.

16. Opium and Ganja Stock.

*17. Smuggling of cocoanut oil at Arukutty.

18. House searches by Excise Officers.

Medical.

*1. Inspection of Medical Institutions by the Darbar Physician coinciding with calls for medical attendance from the neighbourhood.

*2. Receipt of commission by Darbar Physician from Messrs. Ferris and Co.

*3. Local purchase of medicines for the Medical Department.

*4. Proposal to establish a Medical School.

*5. Subordinates of the Medical Department obtaining remuneration for the Darbar Physician.

*6. Promotion of Medical Officers as Deputy Surgeons.

7. Darbar Physician's recommendation to promote Mr. P. R. Subba Aiyar as Surgeon in preference to Mr. K. Krishna Pillai.

8. Letter from Ferris & Co.

9. Victoria Hospital, Quilon: complaints from women patients.

10. Victoria Hospital, Quilon: complaints against appointment of a male Doctor.

Resolutions disallowed.

1. Appointment of a committee to enquire into the working of the Excise Department.

2. Corruption in the Excise Department.

* Only parts of these questions were disallowed.

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

PRESIDENT: We shall now proceed with the general discussion of the budget.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, we meet to discuss the budget under extraordinary circumstances. The intervention of the floods between the preparation of the budget and its presentation has upset all the calculations on which the budget was evidently prepared. All those expectations have been completely shattered by a little freak of nature. The extent of the damage caused by the floods is so great that the whole basis of our calculations has to be altered to meet the requirements of the new situation. The difficulty has been increased by our inability to measure correctly the nature and extent of the demands upon the resources of the State during the course of the succeeding year. An accurate forecast of the probable income as well as the probable expenditure has become almost impossible. Even under normal conditions, there were sufficient reasons to think that the revenue would be insufficient to meet the expenditure. But, in the altered circumstances, the deficit is sure to be much more than what the Financial Secretary anticipates. It is unnecessary to speculate upon the probable revenue of the State during the next year. Our task at such a crisis like this—a crisis unprecedented in the history of this country—necessarily consists in finding out ways and means to economise expenditure so as to release funds for the purpose of relieving distress and of preventing famine. It seems to me that the barest necessities of the administration alone need be provided for in the budget and that all available funds should be utilised for the benefit of the people in distress. It is with a view to achieve this object and to afford means of relief to the poor that I venture to make some suggestions for the consideration of the House. The loss on account of the flood of houses and cattle and of agricultural implements, seed grains and other requisites of cultivation must have been immense. The Kanni crop in almost the whole of North and Central Travancore must have been completely wiped out. Unless the cultivators are given *timely* help, it may not be possible for them to prepare for the Makaram cultivation at the proper time. The condition of the poor in the meantime is sure to be extremely miserable.

It is a source of gratification for us to find that the Government are anxious to relieve distress and to do what they can for the work of relief and of reconstruction in the affected areas. When the Government is as anxious as the people themselves to meet this unusual calamity, it seems to me that the way to make retrenchments in expenditure is easy. I would, under these circumstances, in the first place, suggest that the whole House should go into committee before the formal voting of grants, and decide, after *informal* discussion, as to what economies

could be effected in expenditure in the several departments of Government. If such a method is adopted, all unnecessary discussions could be avoided and retrenchments wherever possible could be made. The budget could also be formally passed after all the necessary reductions are thus agreed upon. I venture to think that such a course is necessary when the situation is so grave and unusual.

The reductions in expenditure amounting to about Rs. 35,000 announced by the Financial Secretary yesterday are hardly sufficient in the present crisis. There are several other items of expenditure in the budget which could, without the least inconvenience, be cut down. It is tolerably certain that the expected revenue under Excise, Forest, and Railways will not be realised. The first relief that will have to be afforded to the land-owners must be by way of remissions of tax on account of failure of crops in the affected localities. The *poramboke* cases and the heavy imposition of taxes on new registries, irrespective of the quality of the soil or of the trees, are causing great distress to the people. It will be a very serious hardship if the attention of the Government is not directed to the redress of grievances in the matter of taxes and new assessments. The collection of land revenue will be greatly reduced during the next year. I hope the Government will also be forced to recognise that the additional allotments proposed for agricultural loans and new works are wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the affected localities.

It is therefore highly necessary that every item of expenditure which is not absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the several departments should be cut down if we are not to be faced with a huge deficit and confronted by fresh taxation later on. An additional expenditure of more than Rs. 2½ lakhs is proposed to be incurred in respect of the Education Department alone. In the face of a national disaster like this, there seems to be absolutely no necessity to incur any additional expenditure at least during the course of one year. All experimental works in connection with the Industries, Agriculture and other departments may also be held up for one year. There is provision for an additional expenditure of nearly a lakh of rupees in respect of the Army and under this head is included an item of expenditure which should have been included in the P. W. D. budget and made votable. I hope it will be possible for Government to postpone the execution of military works costing Rs. 21,800. In the case of several buildings also, the allotments could be cut short and the completion of the works might be postponed.

It seems to me that a *substantial* reduction of expenditure could be effected by suspending the normal increments for one year in the pay of those officers who draw Rs. 100 and above and who are therefore above want. The services alone consume about Rs. 75 lakhs and a temporary withholding of increase of pay, while it cannot be a matter of serious hardship in the case of those who get more than Rs. 100, is sure to release a substantial amount for the noble purpose of famine relief.

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While it is necessary to make reductions as far as we can in the expenditure for the departments, it is also equally necessary to make more liberal allotments for relief work if that work is to be really effective. I doubt very much whether even the enhanced allotment made for agricultural loans is quite sufficient. In any case, these loans could not afford relief to the poor who have been rendered homeless and destitute. This is particularly so in the case of the depressed classes who have no security to offer for the loans. Till the cultivation season for the Makaram crop, these people will have absolutely no employment; and unless the land-owners themselves are able to engage them at that time, their condition will be miserable in the extreme.

The Department of Public Works could do a great deal to relieve the distress of the poor by giving them employment during this time of famine. Public works are recognised to be a source of famine relief and we have sometimes resorted to this method in times of distress. But the grant of three lakhs of rupees made for this purpose is wholly insufficient. A large amount will be required for repairs to bridges, culverts and roads and the allotment will hardly meet the demand of the northern parts of the country for communications and drainage canals.

The long-standing complaint that the department has not yet been able to pay sufficient attention to works in respect of roads and canals in North Travancore is still unredressed; and I take this opportunity to refer to this matter in some detail in order to show how well-founded this complaint is. Owing to the heavy recurring expenditure on account of maintenance and other works, it has also become increasingly difficult to make suitable provision in the budget to meet the demands of the northern parts of the country. We do not grudge the expense already incurred by the State on account of works in other parts of the country. The Government are even now contemplating the possibility of spending as much as Rs. 13½ lakhs for water-supply in Trivandrum. The complaint on behalf of North Travancore is only for a fair share in the attention of the department.

Though the Department of Public Works was formed in 1860, a beginning was made in the matter of public works only about the year 1863. During the years 1862-72, very good progress was made in road construction, but all these roads except the ten mile road from Changanachery to Kottayam were in South Travancore and in Peermade.

In the *Administration Report* for the year 1047 (1871-72), the Chief Engineer observed that "by the time the roads now in progress or proposed and planned are finished we shall have about 1,000 miles opened for cart traffic, and this may fairly be looked for in the course of another eighteen months or two years." By this time nearly Rs. 15 lakhs had been spent for original road works alone, and bridges like the Kuzhitura bridge costing nearly two lakhs of rupees had also been constructed.

And yet excepting the unfinished road up to Kottayam absolutely no attention had been paid to North Travancore during this period.

For the first half of the next ten years after 1047 (1871-72), the expenditure was confined mainly to original works already under construction and on the repairs to and the maintenance of the completed roads. It was during this period (1871-1881) that the Punalur bridge, the tunnels and other works were taken up and completed. In 1051 the main road from Kottayam to the Cochin frontier was taken up and it was completed in 1053 (1877-78). The total length of this road is 155 miles, of which 65 miles appear to be north of Kottayam. This was the first instalment of roads for the northern division. Though simultaneously with the construction of this road, other roads were also laid down and completed about the year 1055, very few roads were opened in North Travancore. It was also during this period that many roads were constructed in Trivandrum. But excepting the Main Central Road and a few other small roads, comparatively little was done for North Travancore in the shape of public works even during this period. We find the following remarks by the Chief Engineer in the *Administration Report* of the year 1052 :—

"The designs of a large bridge over the Kottayam river have been submitted and sanction obtained for its commencement next year, and with these works completed, the reproach of the neglected state (in the shape of public works) of North Travancore will be removed."

But we find that, up to the end of 1051, Rs. 86½ lakhs had been spent by the department without any substantial portion of the amount being spent at all in North Travancore. The maintenance and repairs alone of the existing works had by this time risen to Rs. 1,30,000. As works progressed, the cost of maintenance increased proportionately and began to tell increasingly year after year on the margin left for works of original construction.

On account of this growing expenditure for maintenance and other works in other parts of the State, the Government continued to feel the difficulty of paying sufficient attention to communications in the northern taluks; and though small allotments were meted out, the northern parts of the country were allowed to remain neglected. In 1079, the length of cart roads maintained was 2,218 miles, the length of village roads being 808 miles and of traces 376 miles; and the expenditure on maintenance had risen to Rs. 3,18,128. The increasing demands of the Capital for buildings and other works and of the High Ranges for communications consumed a great portion of the annual allotment, after meeting the cost of the Kodayar Irrigation Works for which large allotments, ultimately amounting to more than Rs. 82 lakhs had to be made from 1070 onwards.

With the inauguration of the Popular Assembly in 1080, the people of the northern taluks got an opportunity of representing their grievances to the Government. We find from the reports that year after

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year the members representing the northern taluks have been complaining about want of communications. The Dewan referred to this in the second session of the Assembly and said:

"New lines of communication in North and Central Travancore and the improvement of the existing lines are under consideration. As a beginning, the construction of a road from Tiruvalla to Pulikkil has already been sanctioned".

Again, in the third session of the Assembly, he said:

"A revised programme of the roads to the newly constructed in North and Central Travancore has been recently received from the Chief Engineer and is under consideration."

During this session, Mr. Mammen Mappillai and several other members suggested a definite scheme of work and a committee of enquiry. In 1084, in his Address to the Assembly, the Dewan said:

"I mentioned to the Assembly last session that His Highness' Government were aware that the state of communications in North Travancore compared unfavourably with that in the South; but I added that in the then state of the public finances and with the Kodayar works on hand it was not possible to spend much on new works anywhere. The time has, in the opinion of Government, arrived when active steps should be taken to redress the balance in favour of North Travancore. So far as the Quilon Division is concerned, it benefits most by the line of railway and it is better provided with roads than Kottayam. Further, a scheme of improving the irrigation tanks of the Shencottah taluk (in the Quilon Division) is under preparation which, when carried out, would probably cost three or four lakhs of rupees. The wants of the Kottayam Division therefore deserve most consideration at our hands, and His Highness' Government would now take up and pursue steadily the policy of opening up new communications or bringing under efficient maintenance such of the existing communications as are not being regularly maintained in the Kottayam Division. We are anxious, in framing a programme of action, to associate with ourselves the people who are to be benefited: and I would therefore suggest that the members from the Kottayam Division should meet under the presidency of the Chief Engineer and select the works which they consider most necessary and to which they wish that preferential consideration should be given. A special allotment of a lakh of rupees will be made for this purpose in the budget of 1085."

But, in spite of this hopeful beginning, nothing came out of this proposal as the minutes of the meeting abundantly prove. Some of the works suggested as the most urgent have not yet even been undertaken. The Dewan again referred to the subject in 1087 and said:

"There can be no doubt that for a long time to come the department will have to devote a great deal of its attention to the development of communications especially in Middle and North Travancore. Referring to the subject, the Chief Engineer has written as follows to Government .... 'As regards the road extension, it is all but at a standstill. A few miles are opened every year, that is all. The road system of the country is to all intents and purposes practically what it was when Mr. A. H. Jacob left, although in the meantime the population has increased by 30 per cent. and the revenue by more and land values have increased four-fold....... As regards the canal system, its condition is a reproach to the State....... It seems to me that expenditure on these lines would tend more to the development and benefit of the State than money expended on buildings'. The Government note that at successive sessions of the Assembly the majority of the representations made relate to the need for new roads or to the improvements necessary in the existing ones."

In fact, however, the department was not able to devote its attention to communications as costly buildings had again to be put up in Trivandrum for which provision had to be made. A scheme for the formation

of local boards for dealing with the question of developing minor roads for which there was insistent demand appears to have been submitted by Mr. Bastow. But the scheme does not seem to have been brought into force. The expenditure on public works had been steadily increasing and in 1090 it had reached the high figure of Rs. 38½ lakhs. But the allotment began to decline after the war; and for five years from 1091, the allotment for the Public Works Department was somewhere about Rs. 23 lakhs a year or even less, and in no year had expenditure on communications exceeded Rs. 5·16 lakhs. In 1096, the members of the then reformed Legislative Council raised a protest against the reduction of expenditure in the Public Works Department and advocated an increased expenditure on communications in the northern taluks. I find that Mr. Nidiry went so far as to suggest that Parur, the northernmost taluk, should first be taken up in the matter of the distribution of funds for public works. It was the practice here to cut short allotments in the P. W. D. whenever there was a large fall in the revenue or a rise in expenditure, and in 1098 this practice was adopted by cutting down the grant for original works to the extent of five lakhs of rupees.

It was declared in 1097 that the bulk of the expenditure of the Public Works Department should be on communications especially in the northern taluks of the State and that it was the policy of the Government to entrust the maintenance of village roads to local inhabitants. In that year, draft rules were framed for standardising the future construction of village roads by private agencies and for the assumption of their management by the Government, and these rules were issued in their final form in 1098. But though 102 miles of ryots' roads had been taken over by the department by 1099 and a sum of Rs. 34,000 spent up to 1098 by the Government, the scheme has not worked well and the Government had to admit that—

"the rules regulating the construction of these roads having been found to be somewhat inelastic in actual working, the suggestions of the Chief Engineer for their suitable amendment are now under the consideration of the Government."

It is hardly necessary to point out that this scheme could not be solely relied on to supply the defect of communications in North Travancore.

In his address to the Assembly at its last session, the Dewan said:

"The centre of activity of the department in the matter of communications has properly shifted to the northern taluks of the State which have not yet been satisfactorily served in that respect."

It is no doubt gratifying to see that the policy of the Government has changed in recent years and that expenditure on buildings has decreased and that on communications has proportionately increased. But the expenditure on communications in North Travancore has not, even since 1097 when the northern taluks are said to have been favoured in the distribution of funds, been such as to "*redress the balance in favour of North Travancore.*" In 1097, the expenditure on the maintenance of existing communications was Rs. 7,17,760 and the total outlay on communications (original works) was Rs. 8,86,752, of which Rs. 4,22,563

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was on roads alone. Though in this year "the bulk of the expenditure" is said to have been on communications especially in the northern taluks, only the Shertallai town roads, the Talayolaparampu-Kuttattukulam road and the Puvankadavu road were the only roads taken up for construction; and they are *still* uncompleted. In 1098 also, we find from the budget that, as a matter of fact, only Rs. 1,11,300 was the total amount of the grant for roads in the northern revenue division out of a total grant of Rs. 4,08,466 for original road works. In 1099 also, the budget allotment for roads in the northern division is only Rs. 1,11,550 out of the total allotment on original road works, and only about the same amount is provided in the present budget. It will thus be seen that no substantial progress has in fact been made in the matter of communications, even though it is said that the bulk of the expenditure is on communications in North Travancore since 1097. In view of the comparatively more extensive area of the northern parts of the country, its population and its wealth, and in view of its neglected condition for so many years past, a far more substantial contribution every year is necessary to develop it and to bring it into line with the other parts of the country. The statement furnished in answer to a question as to the mileage of roads and the expenditure thereon in the different taluks of the State shows how poor the taluks of Parur and Alangad, Shertallai, Vaikam, Kartikapalli and other taluks still are in the matter of roads.

The condition of irrigation and drainage canals for the improvement of cultivation in North Travancore is far worse. North Travancore does not stand in need of any elaborate or costly irrigation works on account of its heavy and unfailing rainfall. The expenditure on irrigation works was, till the year 1062, directed almost exclusively to South Travancore, while in North and Central Travancore the repair and restoration of channels and bunds serving irrigation purposes were left to the land-owners themselves. More than Rs. 12 lakhs had been spent upon irrigation works in South Travancore by the year 1060; A sum of Rs. 15,000 had subsequently to be set apart annually for irrigation works in the Shencottah taluk. The Government therefore sanctioned an annual grant of Rs. 20,000, subsequently raised to Rs. 30,000, for the Northern and Quilon Divisions to be expended on irrigation and drainage channels by Division Peishkars in consultation with the land-owners interested and to be rateably recovered from them along with the tax. The rules also provided for a portion of the expenditure not exceeding one-half in each case being borne by the Sirkar, if there were special grounds for doing so. This arrangement did not serve the object in view and the funds were in no year utilised to any large extent. In 1072, the Irrigation Regulation was passed which provides for the construction, repair and maintenance of irrigation works and for the conservation and distribution of water for purposes of irrigation. But this Regulation also

has wholly failed to achieve the object intended by the legislators in 1072. It is unfortunate that, whenever the claims of North Travancore for a share in the distribution of funds are put forward, they are met by such rules and regulations as are so wholly unworkable in practice.

On account of the heavy rainfall and the annual floods, the Kanni crop in many parts of the country north of Quilon is generally damaged almost every year. Though this year's flood has brought the matter conspicuously to the attention of Government, the damage has been going on in several parts of North Travancore every year. What the northern taluks require is a system of drainage canals more than anything else. For the protection of cultivation, these canals are far more important than roads and should therefore be more carefully attended to by the department. The existence of traces of old canals amply testifies to the fact that there existed in olden days a complete network of drainage canals in many taluks in North Travancore. In old days there were even village watchers to look after the river-bunds and prevent breaches being made in the bunds, as the existence of these bunds was a sufficient protection against the encroachment of water to the fields in flood-time. With the drainage canals providing outlet to the lake or rivers and the bunds along the banks of the rivers, sufficient safe-guards existed in pre-engineering days against damage to cultivation by ordinary floods. But those works have gone and are not cared for. So far as the Vaikam taluk is concerned, most of the prayers made for drainage canals are merely for the restoration of the old canals which served agriculture so well in olden days. But hitherto the attention paid by the department to these works has been extremely poor. At every session of the Popular Assembly since its institution, the members from the Vaikam taluk, for instance, have been praying for the restoration of about fourteen canals which served the purpose of drainage during flood-time and of irrigation for the Kumbham crop. As a result of the repeated prayers during all these twenty years in the Assembly and in this Council, the restoration of *one* of these canals has been provided for in the present budget at a cost of Rs. 4,280, of which Rs. 2,000 alone has been allotted this year. Most of these canals have been completely silted up and portions have been encroached upon and perhaps registered in favour of private individuals. If these canals had been restored, cultivation would not only have thriven in those parts, but even the havoc of a flood like the present would have been considerably small in proportion.

It seems to me that the Engineering Department does not attend to the needs of agriculture. In old days, the Peishkar, who was the head of the administration in a division in all its branches, had at least the occasion to look to the necessities of the cultivators. With the division of departments, it has become the duty of the Engineer Officers to look to these interests. But it is doubtful whether the officers of the department have gone into the interior of the country to see to the local needs of the people. These officers will have to associate with the

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people more freely and discuss their wants with them. It seems to me that the Chief Engineer himself must go to the interior parts of the country and see the real difficulties the agricultural population is labouring under. We find from the *Administration Report* of the year 1098 that the Chief Engineer was on inspection duty only for 112 days as against 177 days in the previous year, and of these days it is impossible to say for how many days he was in North Travancore.

It was in 1086 that the department was re-organised at an increased cost of Rs. 71,000 a year on establishment. The actual saving on account of the re-organisation in 1098 was only Rs. 3,765. Owing to the insufficient allotments made for the Department of Public Works for about six years after 1091, the establishment had not even sufficient work to do during that period. The re-organisation of the department in 1086 was with a view to make the staff efficient enough to spend the large allotments made in those years. We have seen that in 1090 the grant had gone up to Rs. 38 lakhs and yet this department stood in no need of recruitment. It is really surprising to hear that additional establishments might be necessary to spend even the additional amount of Rs. 3 lakhs now provided. It seems to me that the department has no reason to complain that its staff is insufficient to cope with the work. There is also no reason why lapses should occur. There was a lapse of Rs. 44,627 under the ordinary operations of the department in 1098. It seems to me that the department is sufficiently well-constituted to do far more than the work it has been called upon to do in previous years.

My submission, therefore, is that the allotments generally made for the northern taluks of the State are insufficient and that far more liberal allotments should be made in future. In the peculiar conditions brought about by the floods a larger additional allotment than the sum of Rs. 3 lakhs granted is absolutely necessary, if the work of relief and of reconstruction is to be really effective.

MR. G PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Another year has come round and we are at our third budget. We meet to-day under the cloud of a truly national disaster which has practically devastated the whole of Central and North Travancore. The paucity of full and detailed information about the extent of the havoc wrought by the floods, about the loss of human and animal lives, is perhaps inevitable. The official and newspaper reports are meagre and scanty and it is to be feared that the loss of property will be unprecedented. It aggravates our plight to learn that Cochin and the neighbouring districts of the Madras Presidency are afflicted with a similar calamity; for, apart from the check their distressing condition may offer to the possible flow of philanthrophy to this land of charity, our trade-routes have been disorganised and the sources of our food supply cut short; and the prices of articles are daily increasing as a result,

It is gratifying, however, to feel that, in this hour of need, we have got the repeated assurances of the Government that the entire resources at its disposal would be made available for immediate relief as well as for future reconstruction.

Sir, the economic level of the average Travancore agriculturist is normally so low, his staying power and capital are so inappreciable, that the destruction of one crop, the loss of the seed, cattle and implements for the next, and, perhaps too, the disappearance of his house, mean starvation and utter ruin to him. You cannot build on the insecure, rather unsubstantial and imaginary, foundation of the resilience or recuperative power of a man whose capital is often a *minus* quantity and whose credit is even at the best of times at a low ebb. The task that lies before the Government is therefore one of the greatest magnitude, and one which, well-performed, will serve to rehabilitate the peasant proprietor in a position of comparative affluence. It is of the utmost importance to realise that, if the work of immediate relief is paramount and cannot be postponed, the work of restoration and reconstruction is equally obligatory in the permanent interests of the country.

The preliminary budget, framed before the sudden turn events have taken during the last fortnight, requires therefore to be hatched again and hatched differently. As rightly observed by the Financial Secretary, he is "groping in the dark" as to the factors that might eventually result in violent fluctuations of his present forecast; and the present budget is a budget of uncertainties. The remission and suspension of land revenue demands will have to be allowed in a generous measure; and it is hoped that, for some time to come, the Revenue Recovery Regulation will not be worked with rigour. The budgeted amount of land revenue can hardly be attained; the hopes of realising more revenue from forests may have to be abandoned, especially if the report that the timber in some of the water depôts has been washed away is true; and it cannot be doubted that there will be a perceptible fall under customs and excise during the ensuing year. Receipts under all other items of taxation, both direct and indirect, are likely to show a marked decline.

This leads one naturally to the question of developing our sources of revenue. The Financial Secretary observed with some satisfaction that the cash balance with the Government and the short-term deposits owned by Government will adequately meet our requirements and enable us to tide over the temporary deficit and that there was no cause for alarm. He assured us of the soundness and stability of our finances. But I hope he will pardon me when I express my inability to share in his optimism which no doubt has its own effect in cheering us for the moment. In fact, the *Appropriation Report* published by the Financial Secretary echoes the very sentiment expressed by us from year to year. He observes:

"The normal expansion of the revenues of the State cannot, in future, be very large. Salt duty has already been brought down to the old rate and only the normal revenue will be realised under that head in future. Excise revenue is also likely to show a progressive decline. For expenditure, we have adopted a standard which it will be nec-

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difficult to reduce substantially. On the contrary, it must go necessarily higher still. The expenditure on salaries will increase further by the accrual of increments in the time-scales introduced in all departments. Educational expenditure has been increasing at an average of about Rs. 2 lakhs per year and the final stage of its growth cannot be said to have been reached yet. If the University scheme now under contemplation were to materialise, it might involve heavy initial and recurring expenditure. Large sums may also be demanded every year for expenditure on Public Works, Medical Relief, Agriculture, Industries etc. Government will also have to find some provision every year for any unforeseen expenditure. Such being the position, the only way to ensure progress coupled with a sound financial position is to augment the revenue resources of the State and reduce the demands on them in all feasible directions."

I have thought fit to quote this passage in full, for it sums up the true state of affairs. Be it also noted that this was recorded by the Financial Secretary in quite normal times when nothing had happened to upset his calculations. It is only in times of great adversity that the real situation is brought out in bold relief and now is the time for the authorities concerned to tackle the problem with courage and imagination.

The separation of the stable items of revenue from the fluctuating ones and the desirability of confining the normal recurring expenditure to the permanent revenue have been urged in this Council more than once in the past; but strangely enough, that dual functionary, the Financial Secretary to Government and Chief Account Officer, who can without compunction meet the recurring expenditure for one year on account of departmental re-organisations and revisions of salaries from unexpected windfalls, and who feels himself obliged to provide for the same the next year by postponing the development of communications, considers it impossible to do in Travancore what is being done in Mysore.

It is, high time we explored the possibility of adding to our resources without imposing a corresponding burden on the land and the agriculturist. Sir, the most important question which can no more afford to be ignored is the revision of the Interportal Trade Convention. You are no doubt aware of the strong volume of public opinion in the matter which has made itself vocal both in this Council and elsewhere. You are also no doubt aware of the representations that are being made by the Government of Mysore for payment of its share of the customs duty levied on imported articles. Our total revenue under customs for 1100 is fixed at Rs. 23·57 lakhs, of which only about Rs. 2¼ lakhs is to be realised under duty on imports. Under the Convention entered into in 1865, *i. e.*, nearly sixty years ago, we are sacrificing a substantial share of our customs revenue. The number of dutiable articles and the tariff rates have been enhanced in British India and the burden of indirect taxation is equally heavy on us. We are denied rebate on opium as in the case of ganja imported into the State; and the concession we are supposed to enjoy in regard to salt is only nominal inasmuch as, with some enthusiasm and earnestness and, I would add, patriotism on the part of the Excise Department, the State

could easily be self-contained in the matter of salt. The State is refunding to the British Government one-half of the duty levied on Travancore tea exported through British Indian ports and, as the figures show, the amount is not inconsiderable. The principle or policy underlying this arrangement may well be reciprocated. I am not unaware that, in the case of imports through our ports, we could levy duty at the same rates as those obtaining in British India and that imports for Government purposes are not liable to pay duty if landed at our ports. These two are illusory advantages, inasmuch as our ports are inaccessible during most parts of the year and are devoid of railway communication to the interior. Besides, their development and expansion are matters which are not only not within the purview of this Council, but would even appear to be guided by a variety of extraneous influences such as the practicability of the Cochin Harbour Scheme or the effect on Madras Port dues of the improvement of West Coast ports,—factors over which even the Travancore Government have no control. I wish the Financial Secretary would furnish figures showing the amounts paid under customs duty on account of articles imported through British Indian ports for Government purposes and state whether, in any such instance, the duty realised has been refunded. My contention is that the trade agreements with the British Indian Government require revision and that no time should be lost in placing our case before the Government of India. The present arrangements are not only antiquated, inelastic, and illogical; but they are crippling the resources of the State and effectively checking the normal expansion of our revenues in the most legitimate direction. May we not hope, Sir, that your powerful advocacy will not be wanting to obtain for Travancore her due share of the customs revenue?

The cry of all critics of the post-war finances of all Governments has been for retrenchment, and this Council may claim that, by means of interpellations, resolutions, motions on the budget and observations made in the course of the general discussion, it has been urging on the Government the need for further economy and for reduction of establishment. When one scrutinises the additional appointments created during the last three or four years, one is often tempted to despair of the amenability of the Travancore Government to public opinion or to believe implicitly in the proposition made familiar to us by Mr. George that the furthest limit of retrenchment has been reached here. Side by side with the creation of new offices and the consequent deflection of the funds required for, what may be termed, the nation-building activities, the burden of the tax-payer has, during the same period, been appreciably added to by such impositions as the income-tax, enhancement of Anchal rates, raising of school fees, market dues, and an array of municipal rates. It is far from my present object to deny that all the new appointments are unnecessary or that some of the new taxes have served to make the incidence of taxation equitable. I should also take occasion to thank the Government for starting the Development Departments on a progressive basis. The attempt to co-ordinate their activities, and the comparative readiness with which their allotments have been annually increased will always be associated with your name.

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It is my considered opinion, however, Sir, that the aggregate expenditure on salaries and establishment is out of all proportion to our resources or the needs of efficiency and that the development departments should be further expanded and placed in ample funds.

It is a matter for gratification that the Financial Secretary proposes to drop several of the new schemes mentioned in the preliminary budget and involving additional expenditure which can well afford to wait. There are, besides, other schemes such as the L. R. M. work which are continuations of old temporary schemes, which could also be postponed without great harm. All new proposals involving additions of establishment should be postponed for more favourable times. The allotments proposed for incomplete buildings should be reduced to the minimum and all new building works such as the Stamp Manufactory may be abandoned for the time being. Primary attention should be bestowed on communications and protective irrigation works, both of which have badly suffered on account of the floods. The allotment for the P. W. D. should be substantially increased, which will also have the indirect advantage of providing employment. I should particularly mention that most of the works for which provision is now made in the budget are long overdue and that they should not again be postponed to find funds for repairing breaches of roads or putting up bridges in the flooded taluks. Funds for such purposes should be granted afresh and a comprehensive programme of public works for all parts of the State should be drawn up at once and carried through.

I should congratulate the Government on the promptness with which relief measures were adopted by them and the allotment, to begin with, of Rs. 3 lakhs, for special expenditure on this account. In regard to the work of restoration and reconstruction, the task should be approached with great courage. Broad views should be taken and it must never be forgotten that the poor tax-payer is the real paymaster and ultimately the mainstay of the Government. Lakhs of rupees will have to be set apart for the grant of loans required for such various purposes as the purchase of cattle, seeds, manure, and implements of husbandry, for the building of houses, for the construction of minor protective works of irrigation, etc. We are extremely grateful to the Government for the beginning they have made in this direction by allotting over Rs. 5 lakhs for the ensuing year. In this connection, I should urge the wisdom of enlisting the enthusiasm and knowledge of Co-operative Societies for the work of distributing the loans, etc. The very rapid strides which the co-operative movement has taken during the last three or four years, thanks mainly to your active sympathy and wise guidance, and the efficiency of the organisation as we had occasion recently to judge, have emboldened me to make this request and to assure you that, in this network of co-operative societies, Government possess a much better agency than any department like the Revenue or the Police to ascertain local needs, individual credit, etc.

Before I close, I may be permitted to refer to one more question of vital interest to Travancore. The status of Travancore among the comity of Indian States has changed with the establishment of direct relations with the Government of India. Our representations regarding the revision of trade agreements are bound to be more successful now than when urged before a neighbouring provincial Government distressed with its own worries of a heavy contribution to the Central Government. We are, as you observed in your address at the last session of the Assembly, in the front rank of Indian States in point of education, representative institutions, etc., and it behoves us that we discard our petty parochial notions and seek our legitimate place in the Federal India of the future. Travancore should claim to be represented in conferences or councils where all-India questions come up for discussion, for our welfare is intimately connected with the decisions arrived at by such bodies. We have also a claim to be consulted before fundamental changes affecting the constitution of the British Indian Government, and therefore intimately concerning us, are made. We cannot afford to stand apart and look on while vast changes in the political framework of the British Indian Government are sought to be brought about without assigning a definite place for the Indian States which have to share with British India her fortunes and adversities in matters of common concern. Travancore will therefore ever be on the watch and should take the earliest opportunity to press her claims for due representation in the councils of the Empire.

Before concluding I would repeat my prayer that the Council which will discuss the budget for 1101 may meet under happier auspices and more prosperous conditions and that it may be given to you, Sir, to see that the next Council is constituted on a more democratic basis.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Before I deal with the budget, allow me, Sir, to congratulate the Government on the prompt steps taken by them to relieve the distress of the people affected by the flood. It is a matter for gratification that the Head of the Administration, the Dewan, found time in spite of the heavy work in connection with the budget session of the Council, to go and get first-hand information about the havoc that has been played by the flood. 'One touch of nature makes the whole world kin', and it is acts like these that will endear the Head of the Administration to the people. Sir, the present budget should be characterised as antedeluvian—not that it is particularly primitive in character, but as it was drafted anterior to the flood (*laughter*). The floods have completely upset the calculations of the Government and their Financial Advisor. The Financial Secretary has given us such a vivid description of the havoc committed by the floods and the financial situation created thereby, that it is not necessary for me to go over the whole ground again. Cocoanut plantations and the yield of the cocoanut tree must be seriously affected and very great damage must have been caused to other cultivation, both wet and dry. Many merchants have lost their stores of coir, copra, and other merchandise and some of them are said to have been ruined. Therefore, there is likely to be great

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trade depression for some time to come. This would bring down the amount anticipated under income tax and customs and in other ways diminish the revenue. Tremendous damage has been done to the railway, and it will take some time before through communication is restored. The earnings, therefore, both from goods and passenger traffic, must considerably diminish. Excise revenue also cannot but suffer to a great extent, as the labouring classes with whom it will be a struggle for existence and on whom this immoral revenue mostly depends will have no money to spend in the grog shop. It is said that much damage has been done in the salt stored in the Munambam salt depôt, causing probably a loss of three or four lakhs of rupees, and that water found its way into some of the salt sheds at Alleppey. The factories in South Travancore also must have suffered.

On the expenditure side too, a topsyturvy situation has been brought about, as the Government would have to undertake expensive schemes of reconstruction in the devastated areas. It is gratifying to note that the Government are prepared to help the people in every way to stand on their feet again. In the matter of the railway, the tracks that have been destroyed would cost a great deal of money to reconstruct. The Public Works Department have their work cut out for them, as repairs to roads, bridges, etc., would have to be undertaken on an unprecedented scale. The water in the rivers came down suddenly carrying death and destruction before it, and almost in the twinkling of an eye, the whole situation was changed. The industrial and agricultural development of the country, on which we have been building so much hope, is indeed dark and gloomy. So much for the changes in the budget necessitated by the floods. But, even without this, there are many matters that require careful scrutiny.

About half the revenue of the State is derived from excise, tobacco, salt and customs. The tobacco revenue has reached its high-water mark, as also the duty on salt. Excise duty, etc., on arrack, toddy, opium and ganja, may vanish sooner or later. Customs, therefore, is our sheet-anchor, and on this head of revenue we must concentrate our attention. But sad to say, this revenue is shrinking from year to year. This fact has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government in this Council, but no steps have been taken to improve matters. The Land Customs Regulation was passed eight years ago, but the rules to govern its provisions have not yet seen the light of day. The loudly-voiced demand for the revision of the Interportal Convention brought before this House by the Deputy President of this Council and others has fallen on deaf ears. Since the terms of the convention had been drawn up, our trade has increased by leaps and bounds; but the amount we get on import duty has been *in statu quo*. If the Cochin Harbour comes into being, even the little we get by direct imports through our own ports will vanish, as ships are sure to give the go-by to Alleppey when there is a first class harbour close by. It is therefore

only by the revision of the Convention that we can hope to get our just dues. But till then, is it not possible to divert our imports, a great portion of which now comes through Cochin, to our own ports? Medicines, stationery, iron materials, etc., which are imported by the Government, if ordered in time, may be landed at Alleppey in dry weather, and merchants also induced to get their piece-goods, etc., imported at the same time, through our ports.

Coming to exports, it is in our own hands to increase our revenue under this head. Facilities may be offered for exporting tea, on which we lose so much duty, through our own ports. We are certainly not getting all our dues in the export of the produce of the cocoanut tree and other items, in spite of the army of men stationed on our frontiers. The notorious smuggling of oil through the Arukutty chowkey on which questions were asked by Mr. Kumara Pillai when this Council opened last week, tells its own tale. Comment is unnecessary. The stock excuses that are usually brought out whenever there is a fall in customs revenue, *viz.*, the poor yield of the cocoanut tree, unseasonable rains, economic depression, etc., must often be taken *cum grano salis.* The occasional increase we have had, both in imports and in exports, has often been brought about by enhancement of duty. The statement laid before this House yesterday about the manufacture of salt in our factories speaks for itself. The output ten years ago was much more than that of 1097 and almost the same as that of 1098. The old *allom* at Tamarakulam which manufactured over one lakh of maunds ten years ago had an output of only 34,720 maunds in 1097 and 66,522 maunds in 1098. The Puttallom which manufactured 130,113 maunds ten years ago had an output of only 48,320 maunds last year. I looked up the returns of about twenty years back and found that we were manufacturing over four lakhs even then. Is it not possible for a country so favourably situated with a sea-board and salt lakes to be self-contained in its salt supply? On this more anon.

The income from excise, as stated before, can never be relied upon. The delay of four long years in introducing the independent shop system in some of the taluks in North Travancore has brought about a loss to the Government of about five lakhs of rupees and the explanations given cannot hold water for a second. The tax-payer who is ground almost to death with so many taxes would wish to know who is responsible for this tremendous loss to the State. But over and above the loss caused by defects in administration, the excise revenue is destined to disappear. The whole world is moving towards total prohibition. Now, if ever, are all Travancoreans, without distinction of caste or creed, united in praying to Almighty God that Travancore should go dry. The time is not far off when they would be all united in praying that Travancore should go dry in a different direction (*laughter*). Government too have declared prohibition to be the goal. The Excise Committee, which was proclaimed from the house-tops, has proved to be an addled egg. Revenue from this unholy source continues to be a fetish, at the sacrifice of the people's health, peace and prosperity. There may soon be a nemesis and the Government must be prepared for it.

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The Public Works Department and its working have been repeatedly called in question. Lakhs are spent upon works like beautifying the Alleppey Canal and undertaking those of doubtful utility like the Shertallai canal. Good money is thrown away after bad, as in the case of the extension of the new buildings put up in the Natural Science Department in His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Science which, it is said, has been condemned by the University authorities. Top-heaviness in this and in most of the departments has been the bane of the Travancore administration and matters are drifting from bad to worse. Instead of doing away with unnecessary appointments, new ones are created; and officers who should be laid on the shelf are given extensions. The manner in which inspection work is made by officers, often paying flying visits to earn travelling allowance, is far from satisfactory. A closer and more careful scrutiny of the diaries of heads of departments by the Government and those of subordinate officers by heads of departments should be made in the interests of good administration. The summary way in which some officers are punished and forced to retire is creating an uncertainty in the public service, and an impression has also gained ground, Sir, that certain officers may do many things with impunity. The preferential treatment meted out to a few favoured communities is causing much heart-burning and bringing about discord between community and community. The large Catholic community, for instance, is not sufficiently represented in the public service, in spite of repeated representations and appeals made to the Government.

A number of new items of expenditure is staring us in the face and the cuts made by the Financial Secretary are only skin-deep. This House fully expected that the Financial Secretary would have had the grace to effect deeper cuts and even amputations in this direction.

This Council is said not to have justified its existence and we are taken to task for allowing the powers that be to have their own way in nearly everything. This is the last time that most of us will have a chance of doing some substantial good to our country. "Out of evil cometh, good"; and let us not miss this golden opportunity of not only doing away with all unnecessary appointments and sinecures which have been, from time to time, pointed out in this House *ad nauseam*, but also by not sanctioning any new grants except those that are absolutely necessary and are of a *very urgent* nature, for Public Works, Medical Relief and Education. Most probably, many more lakhs will be required for relief and reconstruction work than those estimated by the Financial Secretary and every *chackram* has to be saved for it. Advantage should be taken to give employment to the starving people by immediately opening famine relief works. This may be an opportune moment to improve communication in the northern taluks and for completing the works already begun. When giving relief to the distressed, the utmost care should be taken that the alleged scandals in regard to the rice-supply during the late famine are not repeated. A University is looming on the horizon and no provision appears to have

been made for it. The grants sanctioned for aided schools are far from generous. The Government often appear to forget the great work which missionary and other bodies have been andare doing in bringing Travancore to the forefront of Indian States in the matter of education. The question of water-supply for the capital of the State is still in a state of incubation. Meanwhile typhoid and other diseases are carrying on their work of destruction. Elephantiasis or the Shertallai leg is getting to be common here. The people are already overburdened and new taxes in the present condition of the country may spell disaster. Is this not an opportune moment to undertake the resettlement of some of the taluks not affected by the floods and thereby tap a big source of revenue? Settlement was completed in the taluks of Trivandram, Chirayinkil, Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara over thirty-five years ago, and they are fully ripe for resettlement now. The ground is ready and so also the labourers in the person of Assistant Tahsildars. The good seed has only to be sown with a willing and generous hand to reap a rich harvest to feed the poor and the hungry and help those who have lost their all in this disaster and refill our partially empty exchequer.

In conclusion, pardon me, Sir, for referring to the struggle for freedom and equal citizenship that is going on in certain parts of our State for some time now. Noble souls who belong to the higher classes—a few of whom are seated in this Council—have stretched out their right hand of fellowship to their outcast brethren. Will not the benign Government of our Gracious Sovereign, whose motto is "Charity Our Household Divinity" do likewise? I earnestly appeal to you, Sir, and I am sure every member on this side of the House will join me in the fervent prayer, that these unfortunate people who form a large bulk of the population of the State and are its backbone and mainstay may be treated as human beings and given the ordinary rights enjoyed by their more fortunate brethren. Humanity and religion demand it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, as the Financial Secretary has already told us, we are discussing an uncertain budget under distressing circumstances. The terrible freak of nature, which has devastated the fertile portions of the State, impoverished the agriculturists and rendered the poor homeless, has shattered all our expectations and upset all our calculations of revenue and expenditure. After a quinquennium of partial famine from which the people have not fully recovered, this year people's hearts were immensely gladdened at the lovely sight of verdant smiling crops. The flood was a cruel shock to the farmers of the country. My constituency has suffered untold miseries owing to the terrible inundation and devastation. The extent of damages caused by floods in certain parts of the Pattanamtitta taluk is not yet known or ascertained as some regions are inaccessible to outsiders in this season. I have got reliable reports from Ranni that no help has yet reached the people there from official or non-official sympathisers. Most of the houses in the street of Katakkad were damaged. I myself am an eye-witness to the doings of

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the floods in certain portions of Chengannur. I was truly horrified at the deplorable plight of the poor labourers and indebted petty farmers. In Chengannur, near the *punja* fields and the Pampa river, there are very few houses with mud walls which have not crumbled down. Houses were destroyed; crops were damaged; cattle were killed and maimed by the floods. In my village itself, five persons have succumbed to inundation. Farmers are deprived of seeds and live stock. Cocoanut trees were uprooted. I found that in two or three compounds whole forests had settled down and crushed all fruit-bearing trees. These compounds present the appearance of large timber depôts. Underneath the heaps of timber are found remnants of many valuable timber houses which are being pilferred away by bands of fuel-hunters. The Conservator of Forests has asked his subordinates to mark big trees and the rest are being removed by various persons. There is nobody to look after the remnants of houses and other valuable articles deposited by the floods in various localities.

My constituents have specially asked me to convey their thanks to the Government for all the help promptly rendered in the hour of their trial and tribulation. They have also asked me to lay before the Government their difficulties and grievances. I must congratulate the Government for the speedy relief which they intend to afford to the distressed in the land. The farmers in my constituency demand that tax should be remitted for at least two instalments. The first thing which the poor expect from the Government and the charitably-inclined public is some pecuniary help to erect small huts. A resolution was passed at a meeting in Chengannur that the Government should be requested to advance Rs. 10 each to every poor man whose hut had been destroyed. The distressed people expect a loan of seeds, live stock and some capital from the Government which may be made repayable after seven years by instalments. There is now scarcity of food-stuffs. The profiteering merchants have inflated the price of rice. If the stock of food-stuffs runs short, Government will have to be very vigilant in ascertaining the price and quantity and devising means for supplies. A peculiar feature of the loss in Chengannur is the ravages made by the floating trees, which I have mentioned above. The trees, most of which do not come under the category of royal trees, may belong to the Government or private owners. Those who are damnified by the onslaught of the flotilla of trees claim some compensation for the loss, if trees are to be removed by the Government. In Chengannur a committee of non-official gentlemen are touring in each and every *pakuthi* to ascertain the actual loss sustained by each individual and to submit a report to the Government for the speedy redress of the people's grievances.

As Mr. George has observed, flood relief throughout Travancore will certainly dislocate our finances and will land us in a huge deficit. It is impossible to collect true statistics of the damages occasioned by

the floods within so short a time and to adjust our revenue and expenditure. The people will be thankful to the Government for the provision of an additional sum of Rs. 3 lakhs in the P. W. D. budget and of Rs. 4 lakhs for agricultural loans. In this time of scarcity, Government should save every pie and utilise it for flood relief. Out of Rs. 4,19,000 provided for construction of buildings in the P. W. D., the provision for new buildings should been tirely diverted to the improvement of communications. Only half of the amount allotted for incomplete buildings need be spent this year. There is a complaint that North and Central Travancore are neglected in the matter of communications. The Government can avail themselves of this opportunity to remove that complaint and to afford relief to the poor. If construction of roads and bridges is begun early in the year instead of postponing it to the end of the year, it will be a blessing. I am of opinion that additional funds allotted for certain departments should be reserved to afford relief to the distressed. People will be prepared to forego education or expansion of industries when they are confronted with a calamity. I agree with Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai in suggesting that increments of salary that fall due within the course of one year in the case of officers drawing a salary of Rs. 100 and above may be suspended in view of the distress. Government ought to take particular care that the relief reaches the poor of the land. The loans and donations should be made in consultation with local flood relief committees. The Protector of the Depressed Classes must see that homeless Pulayas and others are actually helped with the Government and other funds.

With all the savings that may be effected, there may be a huge deficit next year. All the principal heads of revenue will suffer directly and indirectly. In addition to the effects of the floods, the railway breaches near Arienkavu will entail additional working expenses and interest charges. The Financial Secretary does not seem to have taken note of that fact. In the light of altered circumstances, the consideration of the merits and demerits of the budget before the House will serve no useful purpose. Everybody is entirely in the dark as to the probable revenue and expenditure of 1100.

I have been for the last two years constantly pleading for further retrenchment in the normal expenditure of the State. A resolution was moved by me in this Council for the appointment of a committee to retrench expenditure. But the Government have not seen their way to make any further investigation into the possibilities of curtailing the ordinary expenses of administration. In answer to Mr. Kunjitomman's resolution about the expenditure on salaries, the Financial Secretary told us that further retrenchment could not be made in any department without risk to its efficiency. With his characteristic optimism, Mr. George observed in his budget speech last year that, considering the difficulties which the Government of India and some Indian States were experiencing, our outlook was not at all gloomy. Even now Mr. George tells us that we are not to be alarmed as the deficits will only be temporary and due to abnormal causes, and that, when the effect of the catastrophe is gone, our financial position will

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not be found wanting in either soundness or stability. Mr. Nilakanta Pillai contended, while opposing my resolution for retrenchment, that the three essential factors which ensure complete financial stability, *viz.*, (1) a balanced revenue budget, (2) provision of funds for continuous development operations according to the declared policy of the Government, and (3) the maintenance of an adequate reserve for meeting all liabilities that should be reasonably anticipated, existed in Travancore. But our present condition shows that our financial position is far from satisfactory. In the provisional budget, only a less amount is provided for revenue. Even that revenue cannot certainly be realised from the people at this juncture, as the Financial Secretary has admitted. Though Messrs. George and Nilakanta Pillai opposed the appointment of a retrenchment committee, they have in unmistakable terms admitted the dire necessity of reducing expenditure and augmenting the sources of revenue. In the *Appropriation Report* for 1098, Mr. George has stated thus :

"The normal expansion of the revenues of the State cannot, in future, be very large. Salt duty has already been brought down to the old rate and only the normal revenue will be realised under that head in future. Excise revenue is also likely to show a progressive decline. For expenditure, we have adopted a standard which it will now be difficult to reduce substantially. On the contrary, it must necessarily go higher still. The expenditure on salaries will increase further by the accrual of increments in the time scales introduced in all departments by the recent revision of salaries. Educational expenditure has been increasing at an average of about two lakhs per year and the final stage of its growth cannot be said to have been reached yet. If the University scheme now under consideration were to materialise, it might involve heavy initial and recurring expenditure. Larger sums may also be demanded every year for expenditure on Public Works, Medical Relief, Agriculture, Industries, etc. Government will also have to find some provision every year for any unforeseen expenditure that may arise. Such being the position, the only way to ensure progress coupled with a sound financial position is to augment the revenue resources of the State and reduce the demands on them in all feasible directions."

These remarks, coming as they do from the Financial Secretary, have to be considered seriously. They were made long before he dreamed of the floods or thought of the present budget dispositions. In the light of the additional circumstances, the duty of the Government is to minimise normal expenditure by all possible means. The effect of the floods may last longer than we anticipate. The question of augmenting the resources of revenue bristles with difficulties. Consider the enormous increase in expenditure during the last five years. The expenditure has risen out of all proportion to the revenue within a period of five years; from 1093 to 1098 the normal expenditure on salaries increased by Rs. 17½ lakhs, from Rs. 57 lakhs to Rs. 74½ lakhs, that on contingencies rose from Rs. 17 lakhs to Rs. 24½ lakhs and that on departments increased by Rs. 11½ lakhs. The revenue has increased only by Rs. 28·8 lakhs while the expenditure has increased by Rs. 35·5 lakhs. Even though there is no expenditure allotted for *murajapam* or anything of that sort next year, the provisional budget does not show a remarkable decline in total expenditure. The idea of appointing a 'Ways and Means Committee'

seems to have been abandoned for ever. At least now, Government should make an honest effort to reduce expenditure in all possible ways.

The only objection raised by the official side of this House against retrenchment is on the ground of efficiency—a term which is differently interpreted and understood. I have understood from Government publications that promotion of efficiency consists in raising the salaries of officials and making manuals and rules. To laymen like us, who are unacquainted with the technicalities of the departments, the much-repeated efficiency seems to be lacking in many departments. Rules are treated with scant courtesy by many of the departments. Some officers do not do their duty with a sense of responsibility and clean conscience. Want of efficiency is always attributed to insufficiency of emoluments. Corruption to a large extent is rampant among the lower and upper subordinates of some departments. Some departments have become self-running machines with no soul within them. During the short time allowed us for general remarks, it is not possible to mention in detail the very many irregularities which are noticeable in the workings of some departments. The defalcation case at Quilon is not one of the stray mines torpedoed by the Account Office. It is the spirit underlying that practice which is impelling some officials to do their duty. If the people complain against any officer, his immediate superior hushes up the whole matter and takes up a defiant attitude against the complainants. It becomes a sort of petty tug-of-war between the department and the people. Sir, the Government ought to use the whip and the weeding hoe for some time to increase efficiency in the departments instead of increasing the staff and enhancing their salaries.

I am for the third time urging upon the Government a further retrenchment of normal expenditure not only next year but in future. Our standard has to be lowered a little in unison with the economic conditions of the country. There were various suggestions thrown out by the members on this side of the House with regard to reduction of expenditure. We advocated the abolition of the Devicolam Division, reduction of Excise circles, transfer of collection of excise *kist* to the Revenue Department, handing over Government schools to private agencies, entrustment of dispensaries to private practitioners, amalgamation of the Sanitary and Medical Departments, handing over Devaswoms to local Devasthanam boards, authorisation of certain recognised private persons to register documents as they attest affidavits, amalgamation of the Development Departments, extension of non-departmental Anchal offices, etc. These and other questions emphatically call for the anxious consideration of the Government.

In this connection, I wish to speak a few words with regard to the public service in Travancore. I am led to touch upon that subject as the problem of unemployment is staring the Government in the face. The system of education which we have been receiving is the parent of the unemployment of which I am speaking. The fully educated and half-educated young men of this country look to public service or the legal

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profession as the ideal of their scholastic labours. As the appointments are very much limited in number, back-door influences, nepotism and communal considerations may play a large part in recruitment and promotion. In Travancore, politics centre round the loaves and fishes of office. Each community is pushing forward the claims of its candidates to the public service. The nature of very many questions and resolutions shows the trend of the grievances of each community. I may frankly say that there is a feeling in the country, created and spread by the legion of the unemployed, that the Government are sometimes recruiting foreigners to the public service and giving predominance to a particular class in many departments, that nepotism and recommendations and sometimes bribes are the competitive examination for preferment, that all communities are not fairly represented in the public service and that the depressed classes are entirely overlooked. These charges may be absolutely false or true. But the complaint exists and it is bound to increase when the problem of unemployment becomes keener. The subordinates of various departments are discontented on account of the uncertainty of the grounds on which promotions are granted. In this land, service is the only test by which a person's capacity is measured for promotion and encouragement. The laziest men who has got longer service will always keep down the most industrious junior. This rule impairs all efficiency in the departments and makes all the officers easy-going. Another glaring injustice in the public service is that two persons with the same qualifications entering two departments at the same time would get differential treatment in the matter of promotions. Men with no high educational qualifications would be promoted in the Police Department while men with better qualifications would have to rot in other departments. If the *cadre* system which obtains in Mysore is introduced here in all departments and grades, this unequal treatment can be avoided and competent hands be made available for suitable posts. In the name of efficiency and for the sake of avoiding communal clamour for office, I request the Government to institute competitive examinations, to introduce the *cadre* system and efficiency bar and to appoint staff selection boards to conduct examinations and to advise departments with regard to recruitment.

When the educated poor are without any work, they may jealously raise a hue and cry against the entertainment of any outsider in the public service. In 1918 a general rule was prescribed in Mysore for all departments and all grades of the service that only natives of Mysore by birth or domicile should be entertained in future whether for permanent or temporary appointments in the superior service, and that, where it is found necessary to appoint any person other than a native of Mysore, the matter should be reported to Government and their sanction obtained. Recommendations for the entertainment of non-Mysoreans in the State service should be accompanied by a full statement of reasons and a certificate that no qualified subject of His Highness the Maha-

[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkappalli.]

satisfied the public. The mere statement of Police Officers cannot be taken as gospel truth. From the days of the students' strike, the morale of the police has gone down. The protectors of law are reported to be behaving in a lawless manner. If, as the District Magistrate says, the action of the volunteers will create disaffection towards the officers and the Government. the behaviour of the police, as it is reported, will impair the faith which the public have in the justice, integrity and honesty of the Government. The too frequent use of some Sections of the Police Regulation which has taken the place of the Rowlatt Act in Travancore to gag certain speakers and prohibit public meetings is a dangerous interference by the executive with the liberty of the subjects, to express their thoughts and to combine for political purposes. Had some persons violated any laws of the State, they ought to have been proceeded againt under the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code in the natural course of things. A Government should not trifle with the birth right of citizens. A Government should not trifle with religion. The Government ought in fairness to allow free entry in all roads to all classes of persons. It is the obstructors who must be dealt with by the police and the magistracy. I hope that Government, without prolonging the fight and further wounding the susceptibilities of the depressed communities, will allow all persons to walk along all roads maintained with public funds. I submit that this House is entitled to get this grievance redressed before we are asked to sanction grants.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnattnad*): Sir, I need hardly say that I come from an area that is suffering from the devastation of the floods. Thousands there have been rendered homeless. Grain, crops, seeds and seedlings have been entirely damaged. Cattle have been almost extinguished. The future seems to be blank as we have lost the wherewithal to start life again. We are very thankful to the Government for the speedy arrangements made by them in the matter of rendering relief. It is also gratifying to know from the re-assuring speech of the President on the opening day of the Council and that of the Financial Secretary yesterday that the Government are prepared to meet all emergencies. The Dewan's tour to some of the affected taluks cannot but give consolation to those in distress and the assurance of the Government's solicitude for the people. The help from private individuals who have escaped the havoc can only be comparatively little and that too temporary. We have therefore to fall back on the benign Government of our gracious Sovereign for relief and all reconstruction measures and means.

It is not necessary for me to say that taxes should be remitted, as the struggle for existence, which is the first consideration, will not allow the poor even to think of anything else.

The small reduction in expenditure suggested by the Financial Secretary is not at all adequate to find funds to meet this extraordinary emergency. Deeper cuts should be made and larger slices taken off.

Retrenchment in the public service should be effected ruthlessly. New appointments and enhancement of salaries should not even be thought of this year. Every unnecessary appointment that has made the service top-heavy should be done away with.

I do not think it would be a hardship if a certain precentage of the salaries of officers, from the highest down to the subordinates getting Rs. 50 per mensem, including the allowances given to the members of this House, be deducted for some time and diverted towards the reconstruction funds. In this connection, I beg to submit that profiteering should, under no circumstances, be tolerated as in the time of the rice supply. All steps should be taken to see that the help given by the Government reaches the poor man without the middleman taking a share of it, and any officer found guilty should be dealt with without mercy or quarter. (*Mr. A. Hoogewerf*: *Hear, hear.*) The situation is abnormal and serious and I hope and pray that Government will continue the relief work with the same earnestness with which they have started it.

Sir, in the next place, I beg to say the adjustment of the budget has for its final object the peace and contentment of the various subjects of His Highness. You are aware that our country is in a state of turmoil. People once united and living in peace and good-will are divided and subdivided. Communal strife is the order of the day and there is an unholy scramble for official loaves and fishes. If matters continue in this manner, the future of this country is indeed gloomy. It is a matter, of extreme regret that Government have not rightly gauged the situation and are allowing things to go from bad to worse.

On account of the facilities given to education and its rapid spread, the problem of unemployment of the educated classes is becoming very acute. The purely literary education that is being imparted in our schools and colleges is not only not benefiting the country but is breeding a great discontent. A serious situation has been brought about and it is for the Government to consider the question with sympathy and statesmanship and find ways and means for its satisfactory solution.

It has to be admitted that the Government have, from time to time, both in the Popular Assembly and in the Council, stated their policy of equality of treatment to all the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja with regard to their entertainment in the State service. But these pronouncements continue to be more or less pious sentiments. The statements laid before this House from time to time in answer to interpellations tell their own tale. Preferential treatment of the favoured classes who are already enjoying the lion's share is still the order of the day. After a great deal of agitation the Devaswoms were separated from the Revenue Department and Government took much credit to themselves and received much praise and thanksgiving for the achievement. A big department has been created and a large slice allotted for its maintenance which is absolutely a preserve for caste-Hindus. The non-caste Hindus and the non-Hindus had great expectation that the Revenue Department, after its separation, would be one into which

[Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

they would be freely recruited and that legitimate promotions would be given and the injury hitherto done repaired. Two years have now elapsed and the result, I beg to state, Sir, is most disappionting. To add insult to injury, the Devaswom Department seems to be the stepping stone to the higher ranks of the Revenue Department. As matters now stand, it seems to be impossible to rise to the higher rungs of the revenue ladder without getting through the Devaswom. So what has been given with one hand is being practically taken away by the other. When a European was appointed as head of this department, our hopes were all the greater that justice would be done to the several communities which were unjustly shut out from this big arm of service for many long years. Our grief is made all the more poignant when it is seen that the old order of things is more or less continuing. The same story may be related in respect of nearly all other departments. The Education Department seems to be another preserve for one class of people and here too by a strange irony its head has always continued to be a European from whom justice and fairplay is expected. The Police, the Excise and the Registration Departments in which large recruitment could very well be made from the unrepresented communities seem also to follow in the wake of the Revenue and Education Departments.

This sort of thing cannot be allowed to continue longer both in the interest of the Government and the people. Some remedy must be found to relieve the tension between community and community by rendering equal justice to all the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. The numerical strength and literacy of each community should be the principle on which future recruitments and preferment in the service should be based so that the unrepresented communities may be soon brought into line with the more favoured ones. I beg to repeat, Sir, that until this question is seriously tackled by the Government and efficient measures are adopted, there will not be peace in the country.

Finally, Sir, I beg to say, I belong to Vaikam and I know all the details of the situation and the tragedy that is going on there now. I whole-heartedly join the two previous speakers in the appeal they have made to give equal right of citizenship to all classes and ease the tension. The sooner this is done, the better it would be for the country.

MR V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Sir, while most people count their gains, we have to count our losses at the end of every year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Louder, please

PRESIDENT : A little louder, please .

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): How sad it is to contemplate that scarcely a year passes without leaving us poorer and poorer in our financial aspirations in spite of a steady increase in

our revenue. This is due to the lavishing of expenditure (1) on new appointments, (2) on exorbitant rates of salary and (3) on travelling expenses. Of course, various reforms and changes were introduced which broadened the administration, but at the same time it deepened the anxiety of the people and impoverished the financial condition of the State. People have completely out-grown this system.

We all know that Travancore was its own granary once. Now it is unable to maintain the surplus population. Every year we have to purchase a great quantity of paddy and rice. Prosperity depends upon the agriculture of a country. Once an eminent poet on the occasion of King Chola's coronation sang thus:—

"If the ryot prospers,
The king will prosper."

We have our Agricultural Department; we have our Industries Department; yet our raw materials are sent away to other countries for manufacture. We are wholly unable to do anything even for our bare necessaries of life. There is a pencil expert. He has been trained, appointed, removed and sent away to another department! At every session we are supplied with either American or German pencils. It is with a sense of pain that I criticise the subject of industrial labour. No people can be either self-respecting or respected by others unless they are able to live by themselves.

The Agricultural Department has been working for the last so many years without any good to the agriculturists. I cannot help remarking that the explanation given by the Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with the resolution on paddy cultivation reflects little credit on the department. I felt then and I do feel even now that there was no wisdom in what he said. This is what he said:

"They do not take particular care in the matter of manuring, in the preparation of soil and in the matter of using selected seeds."

Again, he defends his case in another part of his speech:—

"In most places near the Paddy Farm at Nagercoil, there is a decided increase in the out-put"

These are theories which an ordinary man of common sense and prudence can understand.

Our State Geologist is only engaged in surveying and resurveying the area of our mineral lands. It may take decades or even centuries. So we cannot expect anything from our mineral wealth in the near future.

Economy I can point out. Less costly officers should be appointed in the place of Peishkars and Tahsildars when vacancies occur. Some Tahsildars have no work to do. Some are not empowered to do full justice to their work. L. R. M. work in nine *pakuthies* of the Chirayinkil taluk is kept in abeyance. The Land Revenue Commissioner takes particular care in collecting income tax from those *pakuthies*. Anyhow he has given orders to find out and survey the *poramboke* lands of the above-said *pakuthies*. I think the Commissioner will bear in mind

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

that the lands in those *pakuthies* are *pandaravakai* lands as any other land in the State. So the Tahsildar's pay should be reduced and another officer should be appointed to do the items of work in question in the Chirayinkil taluk.

The P. W. Workshops and the Government Press work at an enormous loss even though the rates are almost double those in private institutions. Another waste I wish to point out is in the P.W.D, During the latter part of the year, they begin work by constructing dams and culverts simply for showing accounts of expenditure for the money budgeted for the year. All uncompleted works will be washed away during the monsoon. I know of instances in Chirayinkil. By this kind of waste, it has become a by-word that the abbreviation, P. W. D., is correct and that it can be called "Public Waste Department"!

In the Judicial Department, they appoint copyists more for providing jobs to their dependants than from necessity. Most of them are idling away their time without having sufficient work to do.

In the Education Department, they sanction big round sums to pay off building and furniture grants to private bodies. The time has come when we need not fear that we will not otherwise have sufficient school buildings. I protest against the grant-giving policy.

I seek your indulgence, Sir, to refer to our administrative policy. From the questions and resolutions that have been tabled in this House and from the representations made in the Popular Assembly, volumes of public criticism are levelled against officers on the score of suspicion and corruption. Perfect ignorance of public agitations by answering "they are not aware" is neither a prudent policy nor statesmanship. With these few words, I close my speech.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): നിയമസഭയിൽ ബഡ്ജററു ഹാജരാക്കുന്ന എല്ലാം അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയുടെ ഉറപ്പില്ലായ്മയെപ്പററി തോന്നിപ്പോകാറുള്ള വിചാരം ൧൧൦൦ ാമാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജററു ഹാജരാക്കീട്ടുള്ള ഈ അവസരത്തിലും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കാതെന്നേ ചെയ്യുന്നു.

൧൦൯൯-ൽ ൭.൪൬ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായും. ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൪൮-ആയിരത്തിൽ പരം രൂപായും, വരവിൽ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവായിട്ടാണ് അവസാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. എന്നാൽ ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൬൯൦ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരുപ്പ് ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ഉപ്പിന്റെ വില ൧൴ രൂപായിൽ നിന്നും ൨൴ രൂപായാക്കി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചതിനാൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിൽ കൂടുതലായിവർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൪.൨൨ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ നീക്കിനോക്കിയാലും ൩൴ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുവരുമെന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. ൧൦൯൬-ൽ [illegible]

ന്നും ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് എത്രയോ അത്യാവശ്യമായി നിൽക്കുന്ന ഇഞ്ചിനീയർവകുപ്പിലേക്കു ൭൩൭ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഇങ്ങനെ ഉപ്പിൽനിന്നും യാദൃച്ഛികമായി കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള രൂപായും, ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ വകുപ്പിലേക്കു കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ള രൂപായും കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ൯൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപായിൽ പരം വരുന്നു. ഇതിൽനിന്നും ൯൭ ലേക്കു നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടെന്ന് അഭിമാനിക്കുന്ന തുക കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൯൭-ൽ രണ്ടുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ കുറവിൽ അവസാനിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്.

൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൩൪ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വരുമെന്നാണ് പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം സംകല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മരാമത്തിലെ ചിലവിൽ ൧൦൯൦ ൽനിന്നും ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൧൪ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ കുറവായിട്ടാണ് ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏററവും പ്രയോജനകരമായ Medical and Sanitary, Industries ഈ വകുപ്പുകളിൽ ൧൦൯൭-നെക്കാൾ ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ചിലവുകുറവായികാണുന്നു. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ കഴിഞ്ഞവെള്ളപൊക്കത്താൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള സീമാതീതമായ കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങളാൽ പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പല ഇനങ്ങളിലും വരവുകുറഞ്ഞുപോകുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. Financial Secretary സംശയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ ൧൦൯൯-ലും വരവിൽ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവു വന്നുചേരുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന് ഇങ്ങനെ വന്നുചേരുന്ന ദുരിതകാലങ്ങളിൽ വരവുചിലവുകളെ ക്രമീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതിനു ബഡ്ജററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ള പലേ ഇനങ്ങളിലേയും ചിലവുകളെ ഉടനെ തന്നെ നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്ന ഭരണക്രമം ഒരു നല്ല നയത്തോടുകൂടിയതാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാൻ നിർവാഹമില്ലാത്തതാണ.

രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവുചിലവുകളുടെ സ്ഥിതി ൧൦൯൬മുതൽ ഇങ്ങനെയിരിക്കേ ൨൦-ാമത്തെ ശ്രീമൂലംപ്രജാസഭയിൽ ദിവാൻജിഅവർകളുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു നമ്മുടെധനസ്ഥിതിയുടെ അടിയുറപ്പിനെപ്പററി ശങ്കിക്കാൻ യാതൊരുകാരണവും ഇല്ലെന്നാണ്. ഈ അഭിപ്രായത്താൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പററി സമാധാനപ്പെടാനോ സന്തോഷപ്പെടാനോ അവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

൧൦൯൯-ലെ ബഡ്ജററ്, Financial Secretary നിയമസഭയിൽ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"In my speech last year I gave a brief review of our financial position and I expressed the view that our financial outlook was not a gloomy one. Our State has so far, by its cautious and prudential policy, escaped the common fate of most other Governments and has been able to balance its budgets without having either 'to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailments in its normal expenditure.'"

ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണഗതികളെ നിർദ്ദാക്ഷിണ്യമായി പരിശോധിക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു Financial Secretary യുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിന്റെ ഈ ഭാഗം ശരിയല്ലെന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളിൽ നികുതിഭാരത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ ഭരണം നിർവ്വഹിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായിപറയുന്ന കാലത്തുതന്നെ ചന്തകൾക്കും അന്തിക്കടകൾക്കും ഫീസുചുമത്തി, പുതുവൽനിയമത്തെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി, ഇടക്കാലത്തു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായ തറവില, തടിവില, കരം ഇവയെ വീണ്ടും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു അതുപോലെതന്നെ തടികളുടെ ശാരിപ്പുവിലകളെ വീണ്ടും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. ആദായനികുതി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി, അഞ്ചൽനിരക്കുകളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ ഫീസു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു, കോടതികളിൽ പകപ്പെഴുത്തുഫീസു, നടപടിഫീസ് ഇവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. പുകയിലയിലെ തീരുവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. ചുങ്കങ്ങളും ചുങ്കസ്ഥാനങ്ങളും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. ഇങ്ങനെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പല വഴികളിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരം വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. Financial Secretary യുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ മറ്റൊരുഭാഗത്തിൽ കാണുന്നത് ന്യായമായ ചിലവുകളിൽ കുറവു വരുത്തീട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ്. ൧,൭൫ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ഇഞ്ചിനീയർമരാമത്തു വകുപ്പിലേക്കു ൩൭ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ൧൯൩ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായ ൧൦൯൮-ൽ അത് ൨൨ ലക്ഷം രൂപായായി കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ൨ കോടിയിൽപരം രൂപാവരവുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ൧൦൯൯-ൽ ൩൨ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മരാമത്തിലേക്ക് അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നത്, ൧൯൫ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൨൩ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായായി കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവിനു മതിയാകാതെവരുന്ന എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മരാമ

ത്തുവകുപ്പിലെ ചിലവുകളെ കുറച്ചു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവു ചിലവുകളെ ക്രമീകരിച്ചു കാണിച്ചുവരുന്ന പതിവ് ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണത്തിൽ സാധാരണയായി കണ്ടുവരുന്ന ഒരു നയമാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവു വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്തോറും ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ വകുപ്പിലെ ചിലവിനുള്ള രൂപാ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതിനു പകരം അതിനെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്ന നയം ഒരിക്കലും സ്വീകാരയോഗ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ൧൦൯൯-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയതോടുകൂടിയുണ്ടായFinancial Secretary യുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഒരു ഭാഗത്ത് ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:—

"We are abandoning extravagant designs in buildings and have diverted as much expenditure as possible from buildings to communications and other works of public utility."

ഇതിന്റെ പരമാർത്ഥം എങ്ങിനെ ഇരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുകൂടി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ പരിശോധിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു.

ആണ്ടു	കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾക്കു ചിലവു രൂപാ.	ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കു ചിലവു രൂപാ.
൧൦൯൭	൬,൯൩,൨൩൩.	൧൬,൦൪,൫൧൨.
൧൦൯൮	൪,൨൮,൫൮൪.	൧൩,൯൪,൪൫൭
൧൦൯൯	൪,൯൫,൦൦൦.	൧൪,൦൫,൦൦൦
൧൧൦൦	൪,൧൯,൬൯൦.	൧൪,൪൪,൭൮൦

൧൦൯൭-ൽ നിന്നും ൧൦൯൮-ൽ കെട്ടിടവേലകൾക്കുള്ള ചിലവിൽ ൨,൬൪,൬൪൯ രൂപാ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതേ ആണ്ടുകളിൽ Financial Secretary യുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ കെട്ടിടവേലകളിലുള്ള പണത്തെ കുറച്ചിട്ടു ഗതാഗത വേലകൾക്കു കൂട്ടുന്നതിനു പകരം ൯൭-ൽ നിന്നു ൯൮-ൽ ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കു ൨,൧൦,൧൧൫ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ൧൦൯൭-ലും, ൧൦൯൯-ലും ഉള്ള കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ കെട്ടിടവേലകളിൽ ൧,൯൮,൨൩൩ രൂപായും ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ ൧,൯൯,൫൧൨ രൂപായും കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ൧൦൯൭-ലേയും ൧൧൦൦-ലേയും ബഡ്ജറ്റുകളെ പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ കെട്ടിടവേലകളിൽ ൨,൭൩,൫൪൩ രൂപായും, ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ ൧,൫൯,൭൩൨ രൂപായും കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പല സംഗതികളിലും പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾക്കും പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും തമ്മിൽ യോജിപ്പില്ലെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

രാജ്യത്തേക്ക് അപ്രതീക്ഷിതമായി വന്നുചേരുന്ന ചിലവുകളെ താങ്ങുന്നതിന് ഓരോ വർഷവും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിൽനിന്നും ചിലവുകഴിച്ച് ഒരു തുക നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു Senior Account Officer മിസ്റ്റർജാർജ് ൧൦൯൮-ലേക്കുള്ള അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ Appropriation Report-ൽ സമ്മതിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ കുറേക്കാലമായി ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടി വേണ്ടപോലെ പതിയുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു ചുവടെ വിവരിക്കുന്ന കണക്കുകൾ തെളിയിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

ആണ്ടു	രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവു രൂപാ	നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു രൂപാ	
൧൦൮൧	൭൩,൧൬,൩൧൬	൮൦,൮൨,൦൯൦	രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്നു
൧൦൯൫	൯൮,൦൧,൦൩൭	൧,൨൬,൦൧,൩൩൬	രൂപായായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.
൧൦൯൬	൧,൫൭,൮൯,൭൮൧	൩൯,൮൫,൮൫൦	രൂപായായി കുറയാൻ ഇടയായി
൧൦൯൭	൧,൮൭,൮൧,൯൬൦	൫൫,൮൮,൦൮൧	രൂപായായി വർദ്ധിച്ചു എങ്കിലും
൧൦൯൮	൧,൯൭,൮൧,൧൮൧	൫൮,൦൧,൬൮൬	രൂപായായി കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.
൧൦൯൯	൬,൦൦,൭൬,൧൦൦	൧൦,൮൮,൧൩൮	രൂപായായി സ്വല്പം വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

കോതയാർ വേലകൾ ആദ്യമായി തുടങ്ങിയതു ൧൦൯൦-ലാണ്. ൧൦൯൦-ലെ വരവു ൮൭ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായും, ആ ആണ്ടിൽ ഖജനാവിലെ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു ൮൯ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായും ആയിരുന്നു. ആ കാലത്തു ഇങ്ങനെയൊരു നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു ഖജനാവിൽ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ കോതയാർ വേലകൾ തുടങ്ങുന്നതിന് അന്നത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനു ധൈര്യമുണ്ടാകുമായിരുന്നു എന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവുകൊണ്ട് എങ്ങിനെയെങ്കിലും കഷ്ടിച്ചു ചിലവു കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുകയും അധികച്ചിലവു വരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന നയമാണ് അന്നത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെന്റു സ്വീകരിച്ചിരുന്നത് എങ്കിൽ കോതയാററിലെ വെള്ളം ഇന്നും സമുദ്രത്തിൽതന്നെ ഒഴുകികൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു. ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഏററവും പ്രയോജനകരങ്ങളായ വലിയ വേലകളെ ഇപ്പോൾ കയ്യേല്ക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ധനസ്ഥിതി അനുകൂലമായിട്ടല്ല നിൽക്കുന്നതു. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ University scheme, Adirapalli scheme, Railway, ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പലേ സംഗതികളും ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ഗൌരവമായ ആലോചനയ്ക്കു വിഷയമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ ധനസ്ഥിതിക്കു ഈ

കാര്യങ്ങൾ നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള പണം കടം വാങ്ങേണ്ടതായി തന്നെയിരിക്കുന്നു. Debenture കടങ്ങളുടെ ഫലം എന്താണെന്ന് ഇന്നത്തെ മൈസൂർ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നതു എല്ലാ നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരു പാഠമായി കരുതാവുന്നതാണ്. അവിടെ വലിയ വേലകൾക്കായി വാങ്ങിട്ടുള്ള കടങ്ങൾ തീർത്തുവരുന്നതിനു ആണ്ടുതോറും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവിൽനിന്നും ൪൨ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ പ്രത്യേകം നീക്കി വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ അവർ ആണ്ടുതോറും പൊതുമുതലിൽനിന്നും വേണ്ടപോലെ ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നുഎങ്കിലും, ആ വലിയ വേലകൾ തീർന്നുകിട്ടുന്നതിനു ഇനിയും വലുതായ തുകകൾ കടം വാങ്ങേണ്ടതായിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് അവിടത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ മൈസൂർ Assembly യിൽ അവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"The revenues of Indian States are of an inelastic character. There is little scope for the expansion of normal revenues and the addition of new sources".

ഈ അഭിപ്രായം നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിനും വളരെ യോജിപ്പായിട്ടാണ് നിൽക്കുന്നത്. അതിനാൽ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുധനത്തെപ്പററി പ്രത്യേകം നിഷ്കൎഷയോടുകൂടി ഇരിക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു

മൈസൂർ അസെംബ്ളിയിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയൊരുഭാഗം കാണുന്നു :

"The important principle in the financial policy then formulated was that the different kinds of resources should be classified according to their nature so that each class of revenue might provide for all reasonable demands against it. Items of revenue occasionally received should not be mixed up with the normal revenues of the State and uncertain revenues should only be used for non-recurring charges".

ഇവിടത്തെ വരവുചിലവുകണക്കുകളുടെ സ്ഥിതികൾ അങ്ങനെയല്ല കണ്ടുവരുന്നതു. യാദൃച്ഛികമായും, അസ്ഥിരമായും ഉള്ള വരവുകളെ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ സ്ഥിരമായ വരവുകളോടുകൂടിച്ചേർത്ത് ആ തോതിനു ചിലവുകളെ നിശ്ചയിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി പറയുന്നതായാൽ പുതുവൽ പതിവിലെ വരവു ക്രമേണ നാമാവശേഷമായി തീരുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ആ സ്ഥാനത്തേക്ക് ഏതെങ്കിലും മററു വഴികളിൽ വരവുണ്ടാകേണ്ടതായിതന്നേവരും. ഇവിടത്തെ വരവുചിലവുകളുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ രീതികൾക്ക് ഏതെങ്കിലും ഇനങ്ങളിൽ വരവു കുറയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ ആ ആണ്ടിൽ deficit വരികയൊ അല്ലാ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ത്തപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായ വഴികളിലുള്ള ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കുയൊ ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ നയം ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ പലേ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളെയും ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതാണ്.

കഴിഞ്ഞ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ദുരിതങ്ങളേയും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ട സഹായങ്ങളേയും, ഇതിലേക്കു മറെറാരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അത്യാപത്തിൽ ഗവർണ്മെന്റു വേണ്ടപോലെ അനുകമ്പ പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കയും, അവർക്കു വേണ്ട സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്വാൻ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് തയ്യാറായിരിക്കയുംചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നിരുന്നാലും ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് അനുരൂപമായവിധം പണം ചിലവാക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് വിഷമിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നത്. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു മൂന്നു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി Financial Secretaryയുടെ ഇന്നലത്തെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നു. ൧൧൦൦-ാമാണ്ടത്തേയ്ക്കു ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ വകുപ്പിനു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൨൯,൯൬,൯൦൦ രൂപായോടു കൂടി ഇപ്പോൾ വിശേഷാൽ ചിലവിന് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുകകൂടി ചേർക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൩൨,൯൬,൯൦൦ രൂപാ വരുന്നു. ഈ തുക ഒരു സാധാരണ വർഷമായ ൧൦൮൯-ലേക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൩൪,൯൨,൬൯൭ രൂപായിൽനിന്നും ൧,൯൮,൭൮൯ രൂപാ കുറവായിട്ടാണ് നിൽക്കുന്നതു. ഇതുകൊണ്ട് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള അവസരങ്ങളിൽപോലും കൂടുതൽ തുക അനുവദിക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കോശസ്ഥിതി വിഷമങ്ങളെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിതീർക്കുന്നതായി കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഖജനാവിലെ ഇന്നത്തെ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു നമ്മുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ധാരാളം മതിയാകുമെന്നാണ് Financial Secretary പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തിന്റെ സാധുത്വം എങ്ങിനെതന്നെയിരുന്നാലും ഇപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അപ്രതീക്ഷിതവും ക്രമാതീതവുമായ ആപത്തിൽനിന്നും അവരെ രക്ഷപ്പെടുത്തിവിടുന്നതിന് എത്രതന്നെ ചിലവു വേണ്ടിവന്നിരുന്നാലും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് പൂർണ്ണമനസ്സോടുകൂടി തയ്യാറാവുകതന്നെയാണ് വേണ്ടതു. ജനങ്ങളെ അവരുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ കഷ്ടതകളിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനായി അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുക ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും സിൽബന്തികളും വേണ്ടിവരുന്നതാണെന്ന് ഇന്നലെ

Financial Secretary പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ സിൽബന്തികൾക്കായി വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്ന പണം ജനങ്ങളുടെ നന്മയ്ക്കായി ചിലവാക്കുകയാണ് വേണ്ടത്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അതിൽ സംബന്ധപ്പെടുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് അവരുടെ സാധാരണ ജോലിയോടുകൂടി ഈ ജോലികൾ വഹിക്കുന്നത് ശ്രമാവഹമായി തീരുമെന്നുള്ളതു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അതിലേയ്ക്കായി രാപകൽ വേല ചെയ്യേണ്ടത് അവരുടെ കടമയെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതിലേക്കു ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വമായി തയ്യാറുള്ള അനവധി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇന്നത്തെ പബ്ളിക്കു സർവീസിൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നത്.

ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു മറെറാരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളത് ജനങ്ങളുടെരക്ഷയ്ക്കായി വിശേഷാൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണത്തെ വേറെ വിധത്തിൽ വിനിയോഗിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി പലരും പല വിധത്തിലുള്ള ശിപാശ്കളോടുകൂടി തയ്യാറായി വരുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളെ ഈ ദുരിതത്തിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിലെങ്കിലും ജനസമ്മതന്മാരും മനുഷ്യരോടു കരുണയുള്ളവരും അവരുടെ കഷ്ടതകളിൽ നിർവ്യാജം സഹകരിക്കുന്നവരും സത്യസന്ധന്മാരും ആയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ എത്രയോ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്.

വേറൊരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു, വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പലേ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും നെൽകൃഷിക്കു വലുതായ ദോഷങ്ങൾ സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ വിളവുദോഷങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ വാസ്തവമായി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങളെ ഭൂനികുതിയിൽ വലുതായ ദോഷമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു കരുതി ന്യായമായി കണക്കാക്കാതെ ഏതാനും നിലങ്ങൾക്കുമാത്രം കരം കുറവെഴുതണമെന്നു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ശിപാർശചെയ്യുന്നത് സാധാരണമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ അവർ ചെയ്യുന്ന ശിപാർശകൾക്കുപോലും അധികൃതന്മാർ സമയാസമയങ്ങളിൽ മറുപടി കൊടുക്കാതേയും അതിനെപ്പററി തീരുമാനിച്ച് ഉത്തരവുകൊടുക്കാതേയും ഇരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വലുതായ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിത്തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിനെ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തരൂപേണ തെളിയിക്കാം. കഴിഞ്ഞ ആണ്ടിൽ വിളവംകോട്ടുതാലൂക്കിൽ കുഴിത്തുറ ആററിലെ വെള്ളം കയറി നെൽ കൃഷിക്കു വലുതായ ദോഷങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകാൻ ഇടയായി. അതിൽ ഏതാനും

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

നിലങ്ങൾക്കു കരം കുറവെഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു തഹശീൽദാർ ശിപാർശചെയ്തു. അതനുസരിച്ചു കരം കുറവെഴുതിക്കിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ള പൂർണ്ണ വിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി അതിലെ കൃഷിക്കാർ കാത്തിരുന്നു. കരം കുറവെഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ട സംഗതിയെപ്പററിയുള്ള ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് ഉത്തരവു, കരം തീരുവകാലങ്ങളിൽ കിട്ടാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു അവരോടു മുറപ്രകാരം നടപടിനടത്തി കരം ഈടാക്കാൻ ഇടയായി. ഇതിനാൽ അവിടത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാർ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുള്ള സങ്കടം പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ അവരിൽനിന്നും കരം ഈടാക്കിയതിൽപിന്നീടു കരം കുറവെഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു സ്ഥലം തഹശീൽദാക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് ഉത്തരവു കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്തിൽ മേൽ വിവരിച്ചമാതിരി കാലതാമസത്തിനും അതിനാൽ കൃഷിക്കാക്കു അന്യായമായ സങ്കടത്തിനും ഇടയാക്കാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം നിഷ്കർഷകൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു വദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ മേലാൽ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും അധികമായി ആശിക്കാൻ സൌകര്യമില്ലെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ ജാർജ്തന്നെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. അതോടുകൂടി ഉപ്പിന്റെ വില പഴയ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ എത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഇനി ആയതു വദ്ധിച്ചുവരാൻ തരമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എക്സൈസിലെ വരവു ക്രമേണ കുറഞ്ഞുവരുവാനും തരമുള്ളു. ഭൂനികുതിയിൽ പുതുവൽ പതിവിന്റെ വരവു ന്യായമായും സ്വാഭാവികമായും കുറഞ്ഞുവരികതന്നെ ചെയ്യും. ഇങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവുകൾ സാധിക്കാൻ നിവ്വാഹമില്ലാതെ വരുന്നതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ധനസ്ഥിതി ഇങ്ങനെ വന്നുചേരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു ൧൦൯൮-ലെ Appropriation report-ൽ മിസ്റ്റർ ജാർജ് രണ്ടു വഴികളാണ് നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതായത് രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും, ചിലവുകളെ കഴിയുംവിധം ചുരുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണ്. വരവിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പററി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു വേണ്ടപോലെ അറിവില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഇനിയും അവരുടെ നികുതിഭാരത്തെ വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു ദിവസേന പൊൻമുട്ടയിടുന്ന താറാവിനെ കൊന്നു ഒന്നിച്ചും ഒന്നായും പൊൻമുട്ടകളെ എടുക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്ന നയമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിഭാരം ചുമത്താതെ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു വദ്ധി

പ്പിക്കാനുള്ള വഴികളിലാണ് ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടത്.

ജനങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിഭാരം ചുമത്താതെ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു വർദ്ധിച്ചുകിട്ടാനുള്ള ഒരു വഴി ഇറക്കുമതിയും, കയററുമതിയും ചുങ്കങ്ങൾ മുഖേനയാണ്. ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൬,൦൩,൬൯,൦൪൭ രൂപാ വിലയുള്ള സധനങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിന് ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനു ചുങ്കം വകയിൽ കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള തുക ൧,൮൮,൯൮൩ രൂപാമാത്രമാണ്. എന്നാൽ അതേ ആണ്ടിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും ൮,൨൩,൭൭,൭൦൯ രൂപാ വിലക്കുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ കയററുമതിചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിനു ചുങ്കംവകയിൽ ൨൩,൧൨,൦൪൧ രൂപാ തീരുവയിൽകിട്ടിയിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇവിടെ കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ഇറക്കുമതിയും കയററുമതിയും തീരുവകൾക്ക് ഒരു സാമ്യവുമില്ലാതെയാണ് ഇരിക്കുന്നത്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർമ്മെന്റുമായി ൧൦൪൦-ൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള Interportal Convention പ്രകാരം അന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് അനുരൂപമായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൪൦,൦൦൦ രൂപാതന്നെ ഇന്നും വാങ്ങേണ്ടതായിവന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇറക്കുമതി തീരുവയിൽ ഇത്രവളരെ കുറവുണ്ടാകാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെന്റുമായി എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ നടത്തി ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് അനുരൂപമായ നിലയിൽ Interportal Convention—നെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതു ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കടമയാകുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിനു ഗണ്യമായ വർദ്ധനയുണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്.

കയററുമതിയുടെ സംഗതിയിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും പുറമേ പോകുന്ന സാമാനങ്ങളും അതിന്റെ തീരുവകളും ആണ്ടുതോറും സ്വാഭാവികമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുവാനേ തരമുള്ളു.

1090 - ൽ 10,89,676 രൂപാ കയററുമതി തീരുവയുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു
1095 - ൽ 17,24,232 രൂപായായും
1097 - ൽ 24,56,079 രൂപായായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

എന്നാൽ 1099 - ൽ അത് 23,37,600 രൂപായായി കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അതായത് 1097 - ൽ നിന്നും 1099 - ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ 1,18,479 രൂപാ കുറകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്.

ഇങ്ങനെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള കുറവു, തെങ്ങിന്റെ കായഫലം കുറഞ്ഞതിനാൽ ആ ഇനത്തിലുള്ള കയററുമതി കുറയുകനിമിത്തമെന്നാണ്

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai]

എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ സമാധാനം പറയുന്നതു. ഈ സമാധാനം ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണ്. 1098-ൽ തെങ്ങുകൾക്കു കാഫലം കുറവാണെന്നു പറവാൻ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർക്ക് എങ്ങനെ സാധിച്ചു എന്നുള്ളതു അറിവാൻ വഴിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള കുറവിന് തെങ്ങിന്റെ കാഫലത്തെ കുററം പറയുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ ചവുക്കസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിന്റേയും അവിടത്തെ ഭരണത്തിന്റേയും ദോഷമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അതു യഥാർത്ഥമായിരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ചുങ്കസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ വരവിനു വലുതായ ദോഷം നേരിടത്തക്കവണ്ണം പല അഴിമതികളും നടന്നുവരുന്നതായ സംഗതി ആരാലും മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അത്രക്കുററി ചവുക്കവഴി തീരുവതീർക്കാതെ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചതിൽ ഉണ്ടായ കേസ്സും അതുസംബന്ധമായ നടപടികളും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ തീരുമാനവും ഇതിലേക്കു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമാണ്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കൊല്ലം (Land Customs) ചൌക്കവഴി തീരുവ തീർക്കാതെ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ കൊണ്ടുപോയതിനെപ്പററി നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ ആദ്യം അങ്ങനെ കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടില്ലെന്നുപറകയും, വീണ്ടും ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ കൊണ്ടുപോയ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയിൽ ഏതാനും ഭാഗത്തിനു തീരുവ തീർത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ചുങ്കസ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ ഭരണം ഇങ്ങനെ അഴിമതികളോടുകൂടിത്തന്നെ നടത്തിപ്പോരികയും അതിനെ ശരിയാക്കി ഭരിക്കാൻ ആ വകുപ്പിൽ അനുരൂപനും ശേഷിമാനുമായ ഒരദ്ധ്യക്ഷനില്ലാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഗവർമ്മെന്റു ചിലവുകളെ താങ്ങാൻ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വീണ്ടും നികുതിഭാരത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതായിത്തന്നെ വരുന്നതാണ്.

British Indian Ports വഴി കയററുമതി ചെയ്യുന്ന നമ്മുടെ തേയിലയ്ക്കു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ചുങ്കത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഒന്നുപകുതി ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥ ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജററുകാലത്ത് ഇതിനെപ്പററിയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും കാണുന്നത് ഈ കരാറു മുമ്പെ ചെയ്തുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നും, അതു തേയിലകൃഷിയുടെ രക്ഷയെക്കരുതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നും ആണ്. ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് ഒരുകാലത്തു ചെയ്തുപോയിട്ടുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ അബദ്ധമുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുമ്പോൾ അതിനെ സുബദ്ധമാക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കടമയാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ തേയിലയ്ക്കു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന

തീരുവ മുഴുവൻ ഇവിടത്തേക്കുതന്നെ കിട്ടണമെന്ന് ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനോടു ചോദിക്കയും വാങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ തേയിലക്കൃഷിയുടെ രക്ഷക്കോ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കോ യാതൊരു ദോഷവും വന്നുപോകുന്നതല്ല. ഇത്തരം ന്യായമായ സംഗതികളെപ്പററി ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർമ്മെൻറുമായി എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ നടത്തി രാജ്യത്തേക്കു ന്യായമായ ലാഭമുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ ഓരോ കാലത്തേയും ദിവാൻജിമാർ പിന്മാറിനില്ക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. രാജ്യത്തേക്കു വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള ഇത്തരം സംഗതികളിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയാതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളിൽ നികുതി വർദ്ധനയുണ്ടാക്കുകയല്ലാതെ ഗത്യന്തരമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ജാർജ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയെപ്പററിയാണ് ഇനി നോക്കേണ്ടതു. ൧൦൯൮-ൽ നിന്നും ൧൦൯൪-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ൭൨ ലക്ഷം രൂപായിൽ നിന്നും ൨൪½ ലക്ഷം രൂപായായും office contingencies വകയിൽ ൧൨ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ നിന്നും ൨൪½ ലക്ഷം രൂപായായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടാണ് ൧൦൯൪-ലെ Appropriation report ൽ നിന്നും കാണുന്നതു. Travelling allowances വകയിൽ ¾ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ മാത്രമേ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാതെ അതിൻെറ ആകത്തുക എത്രയാണെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ൨൭ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ വരുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്.

I am open to correction. I do not know the exact figures.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, may I correct the member? Last year the total expenditure under T. A. was only Rs. 4,23,000.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I am thankful for the correction.

രണ്ടു കോടിയോളം രൂപാ വരവുള്ള ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് ഇത്രയും ശമ്പളചിലവുകൾ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി മിസ്റ്റർ ജാർജ് മനസ്സാലെ സമ്മതിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളുടെ വർദ്ധനകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന വഴികളിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ പണം ചിലവാക്കാനില്ലാതെവരുന്നതിൽ ആശ്ചര്യപ്പെടുവാനില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ ചുരുക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗത്തെ കുറയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ നൂതനമായ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

മറെറാരു വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗം ഉടനെ നിമ്മിക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ ദിവാൻജിമാരുടെയും കാലത്തുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളാലും ശമ്പള സ്കെയിലുകളാലും ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വദ്ധിച്ചുവരാനേ തരമുള്ളു. ഇങ്ങനെ സീമാതീതമായി വദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾക്കു ന്യായമായ നില കിട്ടുവാൻ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവിൽനിന്നും ഒരു ക്ലിപ്തമായ ശതമാനം ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾക്കായി നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നകാലത്തുമാത്രമേ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു. ഇതിലേക്കു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അധികൃതന്മാരുടെ സമ്മതം ഒരിക്കലും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു കിട്ടുന്നതല്ല. അവരുടെ സമ്മതമില്ലാതെ അതിലേക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറു തയ്യാറാകുമെന്നും തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആഫീസു മാനേജരെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയെപ്പററി ൯൮-ലെ ബഡ്ജററിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ്സിൻെറ വാദങ്ങളെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ആഫീസുമാനേജർ ഇല്ലാതെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ ഉദ്യോഗം ഭരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ലെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നതാണ്. ആ ഉദ്യോഗം നിറുത്തിയതിൽപിന്നീടു മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ്സിൻെറ ഭരണത്തിനു കുറവോ കൂടുതലോ വരുത്താതെ നടന്നുപോരികതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നു.

ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഇത്രത്തോളം വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർമ്മെൻറു പറയുന്നതായ സമാധാനം കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടീട്ടെന്നാണ്.

PRESIDENT: You have taken more than twenty minutes.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Shall I stop?

PRESIDENT: What further time would you require?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Five minutes.

PRESIDENT: Yes; you may proceed.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾക്കു് അനുരൂപമായവിധം ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ കാര്യക്ഷമത കിട്ടിവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുപറയുവാൻ എനിക്കു മടിതോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇടക്കാലം മുതൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളുടെ ഫലമായി മേൽനോട്ടത്തിനു വലിയ ശമ്പളങ്ങളോടുകൂടിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ വദ്ധിച്ചു എന്നല്ലാതെ ജോലിചെയ്യുന്നവരുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറകയാണ് ചെ

ച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളുടേയും ഭരണകുഴപ്പങ്ങളെപ്പററി നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചോദ്യങ്ങളും അവയ്ക്കു കിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടികളും അതോടുകൂടിയുള്ള സ്റ്റേററുമെൻറുകളും പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ കാര്യക്ഷമതയുടെ പരിമാണം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വദ്ധിക്കുന്തോറും പബ്ലിക്ക സർവ്വീസിലുള്ള കൈക്കൂലി മുതലായ അഴിമതികൾ കുറകയാണ് വേണ്ടത്. ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ കുറവുണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാമെങ്കിലും മററു ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ ആയതു വദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്.

ഇത്രയും വലുതായ ഒരു തുക ശമ്പളങ്ങൾക്കായി ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്ന ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്ക സർവ്വീസിൽ കൈക്കൂലി മുതലായ അഴിമതികളുടെ സ്ഥിതി എങ്ങിനെ ഇരിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണ് ഇനി നോക്കേണ്ടത്. കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പററി മിക്കവാറും ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭകളിൽ ഒട്ടുവളരെ മെംബറന്മാർ പ്രതിവാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു വിഷയമാണ്. ൧൬-ാമത്തെ ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭയിൽ കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പററി എട്ടു മെംബറന്മാർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"Until people themselves are bold enough to come forward and denounce bad officials, Government and the high officers of Government can do very little to put down corruption. I have known in more backward tracts in the Madras Presidency hundreds of people coming forward to denounce bad officials. This is not a backward country ; this is not a country where people are afraid of coming forward and speaking out openly their grievances. Until the people co-operate with Government by giving specific instances and affording proof, it is not possible for Government to put down corruption. If such proof is forthcoming, Government will not be lagging behind to put down corruption, by instituting judicial enquiries and severely punishing those proved at these enquiries to be corrupt. I do not think Government are helped very much by vague statements couched in very strong language of corruption, inefficiency and so on."

ഈ വാക്കുകളുടെ വാസ്തവത്തെയും, അതിന്മേലുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികളുടേയും ഫലം എന്താണെന്നു പരിശോധിക്കാം. ഇംഗ്ലീഷുവർഷം ൧൯൨൧ ജൂലായിമാസം ൨ നു കൂടിയ നിയമസഭയിൽവച്ചു മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ള ഇങ്ങനെയൊരു ചോദ്യം ചോദിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറു മറുപടിപറകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

Question VIII. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article in the "Conch" dated 11th June 1921, regarding the corruption of Excise Officers in North Travancore and especially in the Arukutty Circle? If so, have the Government taken any action thereon?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report of Mr. K. Padmanabhan Tampi, District Superintendent of Police, which is referred to in the leading article?

Answer (a) Yes. The Government have enquired and satisfied that the allegations made are, in the main, unfounded.

(b) Government do not propose to place on the table the report referred to.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

കത്തിപ്പണത്തെപ്പററിയും അതുസംബന്ധമായുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ചെത്തുകാരുടെ പണിമുടക്കത്തെപ്പററിയും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാവുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഈ മറുപടി ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അശേഷം തൃപ്തിയാകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ആ കാലംമുതൽ ഇതുവരെ നിയമസഭയിൽ ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി പല രൂപത്തിലും ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കാൻ ഇടവന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള മറുപടികളിൽ നിന്നും ഓരോ ചെത്തുകാരോടും ൧൪ രൂപാവീതം കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിവരുന്ന വിവരം എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു മെസ്സേഴ്സ് പത്മനാഭൻതമ്പി, ഗോമതിനായകംപിള്ള ഇവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. കത്തിപ്പണം വാങ്ങിവരുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അന്നത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ Censure ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ഇതെല്ലാം ഗവർൺമെൻറു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു എങ്കിലും കത്തിപ്പണത്തെപ്പററി ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ വരുമ്പോൾ ൧൯൨൧ ജൂലായി ൨൭-ാംനു മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ളയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടി നോക്കാനാണ് പറയുന്നത്.

അത്രുക്കുററി സർക്കിളിൽനിന്നും ചെത്തുകാരോടു മാസം ൧൪ രൂപാവീതം കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിവരുന്നതായി അന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ ഗവർൺമെൻറിലേക്കു എഴുതിഅയച്ചതിനു ശിക്ഷ കൊടുത്തതു censure ചെയ്കയായിരുന്നു.

ഇഞ്ചിനീയർവകുപ്പിലെ സെക്‌ഷൻ ആഫീസർ മി. കെ. എസ്. രാമൻപിള്ള അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ബില്ലിൻപ്രകാരം പണം കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിലേക്ക് ൩൦ രൂപാ നഷ്ടം വന്നേക്കുമായിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ള കുററത്തിനു രണ്ടുവർഷംസസ്പെൻഡു ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. പബ്ലിക്ക സർവീസിൻെറ അഭിമാനത്തെ പുലർത്തുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഈ ശിക്ഷ ന്യായംതന്നെ എന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു.

അത്രുക്കുററിയിലെ എക്സൈസു കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിലെ പണിയിൽ ൫ ഇഞ്ചു concrete ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുപകരം ആറു ഇഞ്ചുഘനത്തിൽ concrete ചെയ്തു അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം പണം ചിലവെഴുതി അപഹരിച്ചതിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള വലുതായ നഷ്ടത്തിനു വീഴ്ചക്കാരൻെറ പേരിലുള്ള നടപടി എന്താണ് എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി പുറത്തു വരുന്നതിനു പ്രയാ

സമായി തീൎന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു cantonment section ഭരിച്ചുവന്നിരുന്ന ഒരുഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ൧൦ ൻ ൩ മുതൽ കുത്തകപ്പാട്ടംവകയിൽ പിരിഞ്ഞുപണത്തെയും, survey റിപ്പോൎട്ടിൻപ്രകാരം വിററുകിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള പണത്തേയും കെട്ടിവയ്ക്കാതെ അപഹരിച്ചുവച്ചിരുന്ന സംഗതിക്ക് എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തിഎന്നറിയുന്നില്ല.

M. S. റോഡിൽ ൧൧-ാമത്തു മൈൽകററിക്കു സമീപം ഇടക്കാലത്തുണ്ടായ വൎഷത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഉടപ്പു വേലയിൽ ഒരിക്കൽ അളന്നിട്ടുള്ള കുഴികളെ വീണ്ടും അളന്നവകയിൽ ൪൦൦ രൂപാവരെ നഷ്ടമുണ്ടാക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ച ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ എന്തുചെയ്തു എന്ന് അറിയുന്നില്ല.

ആലപ്പുഴ, മുനമ്പം ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അഴിമതികളെപ്പററി തുറന്ന കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ചു മിസ്റ്റർ ഛാതർപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെഫലം എന്തായി എന്ന് അറിയാൻ തരമില്ല. അതിനെപ്പററി നിയമസഭയിൽ പല ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിച്ചിട്ടും മറുപടി ഇല്ലാതെ ആണിരിക്കുന്നത്.

കൊല്ലംതഹശീൽദാർ മി.എ. എസ്സ്. കൃഷ്ണയ്യരുടെമേൽ കൈക്കൂലിക്കുററം ആരോപിച്ചു ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരും Land Revenue Commissioner ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു റിപ്പോൎട്ടുചെയ്തതിന്റെ ഫലമായി തീൎന്നതു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സർവീസുപുസ്തകത്തിൽ ഈ സംഗതി നോട്ടുചെയ്കയായിരുന്നു.

മേൽവിവരിച്ച ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു കുററങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ശിക്ഷ ആളുകളെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുമെന്നു പലരും സംശയിച്ചുപോകുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ അല്ലാതെ കുററത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിപോലെ അവരുടെമേൽ ഒരു "judicial enquiry" നടത്തിവരുന്നതായോ, അവരെ കഠിനമായി ശിക്ഷിച്ചു വരുന്നതായൊ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിലുള്ള ചീത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുന്നതിനൊ, അതിലേക്കു തെളിവുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനോ ജനങ്ങൾ മുമ്പിട്ടുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള സമാധാനം നിലക്കത്തക്കതായിതോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സമ്പാദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് അവർ ആണ്ടുതോറും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് അയയ്ക്കുന്ന Property statements നെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നു നിഷ്കൃഷ്ടയായി പരിശോധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പലേ അഴിമതികൾക്കു കുറവുവരുന്നതാണ്. ശമ്പളംകൊണ്ടു ചിലവുകഴിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമായും, തന്റെ സ്വന്ത കെട്ടിടത്തിൽ അററകുററവേലകൾ തീൎക്കാൻ കടംവാങ്ങേണ്ടതായും വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഒരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ, അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് ഉദ്യോഗക്കയററം കിട്ടിയതോടുകൂടി "Alladdin and the Wonderful Lamp" എ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ന്നുള്ള കഥാഗതിപോലെ പണക്കാരനായിത്തീരുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ അതിനെപ്പററിയുള്ള ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾക്കും നടപടികൾക്കും ജനങ്ങളുടെ സഹായവും സഹകരണവും ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആണ്ടുതോറും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് അയക്കുന്ന Property statement കൾ പ്രൈവററായി വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

Property statements അതുപോലെയുള്ള മററുപലസംഗതികളും തുറന്ന കോടതികളിൽ പറയുന്നതിനു അനുവദിക്കാമെങ്കിൽ നിയമസഭയിലും, അതിലെ മെംബറന്മാരിലുംനിന്നു മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം എന്താണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിവാൻ അവകാശമുള്ള ഇത്തരം സംഗതികളെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു മറച്ചുവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ പേരിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ന്യായമായി ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ട ബഹുമാനം കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നതും, പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിനോടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പൊതുവെ വെറുപ്പുതോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നതും സഹജമാണ്. കളങ്കരഹിതവും കാര്യക്ഷമതയോടുകൂടിയതുമായ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസു വേണമെന്നാണ് ജനങ്ങൾ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നത്. അത് അവക്ക് ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കടമയാണ. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പേരിൽ ജനങ്ങൾ ദോഷാരോപണങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ പ്രവൃത്തികളെ സാധൂകരിക്കാൻ നോക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കടമയാണെന്നുള്ള തത്വത്തെ ഞാൻ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ വമ്പിച്ച കൈക്കൂലിക്കാരെന്നു പൂർണ്ണബോധം വന്നിട്ടുള്ളവർകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ രക്ഷയായ തണലിൽ അഭയം പ്രാപിച്ചുനിൽക്കുന്നതും അവരെ അങ്ങനെ നിറുത്തുന്നതും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സഹിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത മനോവേദനയുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഏതുജാതിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവനായിരുന്നാലും, ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന് എന്തെല്ലാം സ്വാധീനതകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാലും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന് എന്തെല്ലാം ശക്തികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാലും അവയെ ഒന്നും ഗണിക്കാതെയും, രാജ്യത്തിൻെറയും അതിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെയും നന്മകളെ വിചാരിച്ചും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിൽനിന്നും പിരിച്ച് അയയ്ക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതു ഒരു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ യശസ്കരമായുള്ള ഭരണത്തിനു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ വലുതായ കളങ്കത്തെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതാണ്.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-5 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-55 P. M.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): We are once again engaged in the task of taking a bird's eye-view of the working of the various departments, and along with it the consideration of the various items of public revenue and expenditure. From our position of non-official detachment, we are able to see both the peaks and the depressions, so that our opinions on the general questions of administration may be entitled to a good deal of weight. That has in fact been recognised by the Government and they have been prepared to act up to our counsel times without number. I am referring to this to show that, when it is made out, by the unanimity of non-official opinion, that certain items of public expenditure are not so beneficial to the State as they would otherwise be, it is time the Government take us into their confidence and accept our recommendations.

The most essential requisite of public administration is no doubt the efficiency of the public service. Whatever may be the differences of opinion that we on this side of the House may have with regard to the efficiency of particular officers, the Government have always accepted the position that they are prepared to recognise efficiency even though it costs a good deal of money. That is a principle which commends itself to me; and when I say that the public service of Travancore is over-manned, I do not want to give up the claims of efficiency. In this very hall, Sir, time and again, both in the Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council, I have emphasised the necessity of a searching enquiry being made into the public service, to see whether so many officers are necessary, whether the Government would not be justified in making some retrenchment and whether the whole scheme of public service does not require reconsideration. I mentioned this last time, and several of my friends also have emphasised it. Whatever the Government might do in the interests of public service and in the interests of the country, so long as this general complaint is not removed, so long as the Government continue to look upon the claims of efficiency in their own manner without regard to the recommendations that we have to make, I submit, Sir, that the very same argument, the very same facts and figures, and, perhaps, by permutations and combinations, even the very same sentences may have to be repeated in the times to come. But, if Government will only take our proposals seriously, if they will enquire into the matter, if they will convince us that the items of public expenditure, the salaries disbursed to some class of officers and the expenditure on contingencies are unavoidable, we shall not certainly take the time of the Council any more than is absolutely necessary. And the Government officers also will be spared the necessity of repeating stock arguments throughout the year—whether those arguments are placed before the House at the time of the discussion of the budget or when resolutions on important matters of public interest are being discussed. It is my considered opinion, Sir, and I think I am entitled to say that, because the very question had been taken up and discussed by me during several years, both before the Council and the Assembly, I think I am justified in making the statement that retrenchment is possible in the public service, and that we need not have so many officers in the higher grades as we now have.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

In addition to that, there are very many inconsistencies of a serious nature between the pay, the powers and the distribution of the various officers in the various departments. The Division Officers, for example, in the different departments are receiving different pay and are accorded different status. The Peishkar gets a salary of Rs. 500-700; the Assistant Excise Commissioner Rs. 250-350; that is one grade, while another grade also is getting Rs. 175-225; there are various Assistant Conservators getting Rs. 200-300; Deputy Conservators are getting Rs. 300-400; the District Superintendents of Police Rs. 300-450; the Assistant Superintendents of Police Rs. 200-250; Ayurveda Inspector Rs. 40-50; Sanitary Circle Officers Rs. 80-100; Devaswom Assistant Commissioners Rs. 200-250; the Assistant Inspectors in the Education Department Rs. 125-175; and so on. With regard to the heads of departments also, there is no proper scheme. A very competent man who has a long and estimable service to his credit often gets less pay than one who is inferior to him both in character and capacity. The reason is only this—that the latter has had the good fortune of being in some department in which he got promotions in a purely automatic manner. Co-ordination and grading are therefore urgently required. I fail to see why the pay and prospects of divisional officers in the various departments should be so dissimilar. The Assistant Conservators of Forests, for example, get Rs. 250 whereas the Assistant Engineers get more than that, and the real Division Officers in the P. W. D. get very much more. The Sanitary Inspector gets only Rs. 80-100. In the Judicial Department, the Chief Justice gets Rs. 1,200, whereas the Police Commissioner gets many hundreds more. I am not one of those who think that the pay of responsible officers should be cut down; on the other hand, I am for giving them a handsome salary. Some arrangement should nevertheless be made by which officers of the very same degree of responsibility occupying similar positions in the official ladder in different departments should be put on equal salaries. I do not think, Sir, that, taking the public service into consideration, there is anything which is more imperatively necessary than this scheme being framed at the earliest opportunity. The non-officials have been pressing this matter upon the attention of the Government for the last twenty years, if I remember correct. The Government ought to get the best opinion; they ought to investigate the whole matter, examine the methods of work and come to some decision which will be acceptable to this Council and the country at large. I may also say in this connection that, without the association of proper non-official agency, Government will not be able to do this most arduous work because, in this State, every head of a department thinks that his prestige depends upon the number of his subordinates and their salaries. I am speaking from some experience of those officers. When it comes to a question of departmental re-organisation, heads of departments are anxious to exploit the situation and to tell the Government from time to time that, unless a very large addition is made to their staff, they will not be able to do their work with promptness.

Government frequently accept their views as a matter of course. The result is that in about 20 or 25 years there would be large sums of money spent in a wrong direction, and more offices created than are justified by the true exigencies of public service. I therefore request the House to consider the necessity of appointing a small committee of experienced officials and experienced non-officials, which will be able to go into the whole question and decide matters with care in order that this question may not be raised as often as is being done in this Council. When a resolution on retrenchment was being discussed in this House, I addressed questions on the subject to gentlemen on the other side of the House; and I learnt that, at the time of the Salaries Committee, the work was not done in an adequate manner and therefore their conclusion was not as satisfactory as it should otherwise have been. The proposed committee should go into the whole question, visit offices, examine both officials and non-officials, and formulate definite proposals which will be valuable to the Government. The question of retrenchment has been stressed by several members and I do not want to say anything more on that. I would once more emphasise the opinion that the most important reform required is a financial reform not merely one of retrenchment but of such retrenchment as is consistent with the efficiency of the public service. It would not be enough if the Government passed their orders on the recommendations of heads of departments.

Various questions had been raised by my friends on this side of the House. Some of them were prepared to accept the position which has been stated by the Financial Secretary that, on account of the unprecedented floods, the financial estimates of this year were the result of "groping in the dark." Sir, I do not think that, after all, in spite of the great devastation occasioned by the heavy floods and in spite of the loss of property and life, we are yet "groping in the dark". I am not prepared to say that, on account of the floods, our ordinary activities should be suspended. No doubt, the Government should strain every nerve to relieve the distress of the afflicted; the non-officials also must do all that is possible to relieve distress, to make it possible for suffering humanity to take advantage of the relief afforded. But while maintaining this view, I should also maintain that, in spite of the great flood, the ordinary activities of the Government cannot but continue and that we should not stint money for necessary purposes. The Government should not incur additional expenditure in questionable or problematical lines. I think the Government will not be justified in creating additions to the number of officers. I think also, Sir, that the unsystematic development of various departments which cost large amounts of money may be suspended for the present with advantage, to be resumed when we are able to attain financial equilibrium. But, while I say that, I might also say that, in spite of the calamity, we should not stint expenditure on what is necessary; and if we have not got enough money, we ought to raise it by loans. The calamity in certain districts and certain taluks is vast; but at the same time I must say that there is no calamity worth the name in other parts of the

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

country and that the people who have been luckier may even pay some necessary cess. (*Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: Hear, hear.*) While we ought to do our maximum for the relief of distress, we ought not to be obsessed by the expression which the Financial Secretary has used, *viz.*, that we are "groping in the dark". I fear that expression is responsible for creating a feeling in our mind that the financial situation is not sound. If, for these comparatively unimportant matters in the history of the human race, if, because of this flood, a gentleman who is on the other side of the House, who has been receiving our praises for capacity and foresight, if such an officer says that his financial estimate is a result of "groping in the dark", we, on this side of the House, may be alarmed. But the Financial Secretary like an astute man has made a qualification to this statement towards the close of his speech. I do not propose to say anything more with regard to that.

Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, who was the first speaker of the day and for whose knowledge of politics I have respect, said that the whole trouble in North Travancore was due to the circumstances that public funds were not equitably distributed and that South Travancore was getting more than North Travancore. He said that that was the cause of the whole evil. If we were living in a country as large as the Indian Empire or the United States of America, I can understand the difference between the Southerns and the Northerns. One can understand the disputes between England and Ireland over certain questions or the disputes with regard to imperial and provincial finances in British India. But living in a small State whose length is less than two hundred miles, and whose average breadth is not much more than fifty miles, I think the interests of the southerners are not so inconsistent with those of the northerners. When we are dealing with questions of finance, let us not be influenced by narrow considerations of south and north.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai prepared to exchange places with the northerners? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has asked the question whether I am prepared to exchange places with North Travancoreans. His permanent interests are in North Travancore; but he has elected to make Trivandrum his permanent place of residence; but I shall not be able to remove to North Travancore, nor do I wish to do so. I did not say that the interests of North Travancore should be subordinated to those of South Travancore. I only say that the distinction between North and South Travancore is so irrelevant that we ought not to remember it when discussing the budget. We non-officials ought not to fight each other over this. We should not say that hitherto South Travancore was getting a large amount, much more than it deserved. If we said that, South Travancoreans like Mr. Kumara Pillai and Mr. Daniel would come

forward and say that they had been living in a waterless tract and contend that without artificial irrigation they cannot have anything. If we fight over such matters when dealing with the budget, we shall be defeated. (*Laughter.*) Lord Kitchener said, when he had a dispute with General French: "I came here not to fight General French but to fight the German." So let us not wrangle among ourselves over these matters, let us not create unnecessary cleavages of opinion. Let us accept the position that all Travancoreans should have the benefit of Travancore finances, in spite of the fact that North Travancore has been neglected in the matter of irrigation and roads, and in spite also of the fact that South Travancoreans have been getting something during all these years. You do not think of levelling down things, you do not propose to abolish all vested rights; you are only for improving yourself consistently with improving others. So, the distinction between South and North Travancore is unimportant when we discuss the budget. We non-officials ought to stand as one man in order to ask Government to find funds for pushing on with the nation-building activities, making more roads and bridges, giving agricultural and industrial loans, pushing on our education, sanitary activities etc. It would be very much better to tell the Government that we are not satisfied with the allotments made this year. If Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai or anybody else says that, till there is equality created between South and North Travancore, nothing should be done in South Travancore, I should demur to that proposition.

The Rev. Father Vettikkapalli adverted to the Devaswom Department. I propose to say something with regard to it but not on the same lines. I thought of saying that, when you send revenue officers of experience to the Devaswom Department and when they are allowed to go on in their own way without sufficient check or control by non-official opinion, acclimatising themselves to the position of safety from the public view, there would be trouble if they are again brought into the general service. But that is not Fr. Vettikkapalli's reason. He was saying that, because members of some communities were not formerly entertained in the Revenue Department, he hoped that, when a European became the head of the department, other communities would get justice. I am one of those who believe in the impartiality, stern justice and high sense of duty of the European. I have very often given expression to that opinion in this House itself, and no one will be able to shake off that feeling from me. But I cannot accept the position that anybody who is not a European should be necessarily unjust (*laughter*). I cannot agree with him when he says that it is only when a European is made the head of a department that justice may be expected. I certainly expect that Mr. Robinson would do justice. But I expect also that other people would do justice likewise. The question is not whether an Indian or a European will be more just, but whether the claims of particular communities have to be recognised. Government separated the Devaswoms from the Revenue Department for the purpose of satisfying the demands of, or rather for removing the grievances of, certain communities, which grievances were real or fancied. Having done that, if Government

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propose to lay down that, until an equal distribution of appointments has been made, until all the communities who have not been given their chance are sufficiently compensated, other communities should have no claim to appointments, I am not prepared to accept that position. I am certainly for recognising the claims of these communities. But I deny the proposition that, because some communities were in an advantageous position in the past, there should now be a process of indiscriminate levelling.. After all, when you probe into the idea of the elevation of the depressed classes, you will find that it is a matter which does not require much of discussion; for there is no of difference of opinion in regard to that 'Bringing the depressed classes into line with others' is the phrase which induces me to say so. The members of depressed communities who possess sufficient education, courage, energy and character should be freely entertained in the public service; but the corollary that has been sought to be deduced, *viz.*, that, because they were suffering, others should not get appointments, is too much for me to subscribe to.

With regard to the question which has been asked by my friend Mr. Kumara Pillai the other day and which has been answered by the Government about the character of public servants being questioned in newspapers, I beg to associate myself with the general opinion expressed by him. I have raised the same question in the Assembly, if I remember correct, during the time of Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nair. I said then that, if a newspaper made allegations against a public servant that he was corrupt, Government should not take their stand on a high altitude of indifference. They must not say that they are not prepared to attach any weight to the allegations made in the newspapers. The papers are read by a large number of people. His Highness the Maha Raja's Government have been spending immense amounts of money on education, so that the majority of the people can read and write. These newspapers, some of which are cheap, are being distributed among them. It is apprehended that there is some corruption in the public service. I am not prepared to single out any officer as being corrupt. If a particular officer is said to be corrupt there is no reason to think that there are no others who are equally so. I am prepared to stand forth and say that, when a newspaper publishes serious allegations against an officer or a number of officers, Government have got to perform a duty. If it was an untruth that was published in the paper the public mind would be contaminated. To avoid that contamination, the best thing for the Government would be to ask the officer to prosecute the newspaper. If the officer concerned is able to vindicate his character in a court of law, that newspaper will not circulate and perhaps may cease to exist altogether. If, on the other hand, an officer is declared to be corrupt by a competent court of law, the Government should send him out on his business, because, if, in spite of all that the people say and all that the newspapers maintain, the officers are encouraged to take their stand on their inviolable position,

Government will be stultifying themselves. I make it once more clear that I am not speaking with regard to any particular man or any particular allegation. I take my stand on the general proposition that if against any officer, whether high or low, allegations of clear corruption have been made in a newspaper, that officer should at once be directed to prosecute that newspaper. And if in the prosecution, the officer's case is disproved, he ought to be dealt with severely.

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I shall take only a minute more.

Indirectly, it will be to the larger interests of the services and the public. It will encourage healthy journalism and improve the morale of the services.

Various other questions have been raised in the course of the discussion. But I do not propose to deal with all of them, as I may be able to discuss them at a later stage. But, for the present, I wish once more to say that the real evil is the feeling prevalent throughout the State that we have more officers than we require. It is this evil which has to be remedied. If, on the other hand, after due enquiry is made by a properly constituted committee, these officers are found necessary and funds are required for the purpose, this House will have no difficulty in allowing the demands made by the Government.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, as one coming from the area affected by the recent floods, I may be permitted to premise my observations on the budget with an expression of the gratefulness of Central and North Travancore for the prompt measures of relief taken by the Government and the further measures proposed to alleviate the distress caused by the recent floods.

The Financial Secretary opened his speech with a tale of distress that must have touched the heart of the House, and closed it with a ring of confidence in the resources of the State to weather any storm that might arise.

We would we could share his sturdy optimism, and if we strike a jarring note, it is only because of our anxiety to keep our finances fit for any contigency.

The forecast of revenue might have been eminently satisfactory but for the new factor which nobody could have foreseen. I have been entering a protest against too hopeful forecasts on previous occasions. This time I am happy to find every item kept within the bounds of reasonable probability.

Turning to the expenditure side, I regret I have to repeat my oft-repeated wail of woe. I know it is only a cry in the wilderness. We have pointed out time and again how the expenditure has been rising out of all proportion to the revenue. During a short period of three years from 1094, the expenditure has increased by over Rs. 35 lakhs. The Education Department comes in for near 20 per cent. and

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

our over-manned and over-paid services account for nearly 40 per cent. of the revenue. We are aware that Government are conscious of the need for economy and retrenchment. On another occasion, the Financial Secretary opined that, in order to meet the increasing demands of the future, we have to exercise strict economy and effect all reasonable retrenchments. We come across such pious wishes and expressions frequently. The momentum already gained and the force of vested interests have been too strong. Sir, it is high time to call halt. The services are obsessed with the idea of their importance. An independent expert, untrammelled by preconceptions and prejudices, alone might be able to make fresh suggestions. We never entertained any hopes from the Salaries Committee or the Efficiency Audit Officer.

Though we are spending over Rs. 38 lakhs for education, I am afraid we are not getting our money's worth. The system is radically rotten. It is out of date. It was devised half a century ago to manufacture clerks and employees to fill the subordinate services of the East India Company. It unfits the individual for the practical affairs of life. Its ideal is purely cultural. It has been condemned by many a thinking man. A Travancore University for the existing system might only be another white elephant. Here again, the opinion of independent experts, who have first-hand information about systems of education obtaining elsewhere, should be called for, before a University is sought to be built on the existing foundations.

The commercial services are still run on uncommercial lines. The Anchal Department, which was one of the first to be re-organised and therefore one of the first to be over-paid, wants to make up its deficit by further burdens on the tax payer. It does not realise that high prices means less trade. Red-tape in commerce spells the bankruptcy court.

How under the circumstances can we find relief from petty exactions and sufficient finance for nation-building activities?

Coming to petty exactions, road-toll is one of the meanest and most vaxatious of imposts. The revenue derived is about Rs. ¾ of a lakh. The income tax that has been newly imposed, and which we willingly pay, must give us immunity from such petty exactions. Services cease to pay and travel and business get curtailed.

The fine imposed on the ownership of *valloms* is another iniquitous impost. It serves no purpose but that of harassing torment. (*Hear, hear*) I may here observe that there are very few stations where registrations of *valloms* are carried on, and the whole thing has to be done in the course of a few days. There are a number of *valloms* waiting for days and people cannot get registration of their *valloms*, so that it is really a case of harassing and vexatious torment. And after all nobody is benefited by it. There is no restriction on the ownership of *valloms* or as to what sort of *valloms* alone could be allowed to ply. The revenue is not much more than Rs. 25,000,

The major portion of the navigation receipts is derived from steam and motor launches.

Municipal imposts are the most harassing of all. One cannot own a house, carry on business, keep a dog, a bull, or a horse, or a cycle, a rickshaw or a carriage, or sell in the market, or enter the town limits otherwise than on foot, without being penalised! The only profession that has escaped municipal taxation is beggary. (*Laughter.*) And what do we get in return? A few dim lights, many of them serving as sign-posts to the residences of municipal commissioners, a little spasmodic scavenging, and any amount of municipal wrangling. Municipal administration, as at present, is mostly camouflaged fuss. This sort of *Swaraj* or Home Rule might turn the most loyal and law-abiding of lawyers into a non-co-operator. The administration that is bold enough to end or mend this well-devised sham would earn the undying gratitude of the rate-payer. If these municipalities have to be retained, I would suggest a grant from the general revenues, as against market tolls, vehicle tolls, and levies of that ilk.

As against these losses, we are prepared to forgo the advantages of the Industries Department, a boosted drone that eats up the honey in the guise of manufacture, the Photographic Department, the Archaeological Department, and kindred departments, that have yet to justify their continued existence.

Turning to trade and business, we built high hopes on the projected State-aided-Bank. There is a fatality attaching to business enterprises receiving Government help in Travancore. The Punalur Paper Mills, the M. P. M. T. and A. V. Co., and the Travancore Sugars have not been able to survive Government aid. We wait to know whether the State-aided Bank is to be a case of still-birth.

There was complaint last year about the allotment of over Rs. 13 lakhs to the South Indian Railway Co. for the purchase of rolling stock. As no fresh rolling stock has yet been put on the permanent road, it is the duty of the Government to know the reason why and whether we ought to pay for the benefit that we have not obtained.

Many of us who have been sceptical from the outset of the Cochin Harbour Scheme are glad to see that we are rid of that incubus. We hope the ghost has been laid too deep for resurrection.

In this connection, there seems to be an opinion current even among expert engineers that the continuance of the present flood was due in large measure to the closing or narrowing of the mouth of the Vembanad lake. The House might know that bunds have been put at the northern end of the Vembanad lake on the west of the island of Vendurutti, to add a few acres of land by way of reclamation, so that the waterway which might serve to take the current out into the sea has become congested. Thus the water that has been flowing down the hills could not find an escape in sufficient time, and had therefore to flood the areas in the lowlands. The matter deserves consideration; and even though Cochin is out of the jurisdiction of our Engineering Department,

[Mr. John Mackie.]

the Chief Engineer or some other responsible officer might be deputed to make a study of the subject as to whether the narrowing of the mouth of the Vembanad lake has affected the present flood.

We congratulate the Government on making a small provision towards the beginning of the survey of the Kottarakara-Ernakulam line. Let us hope to live long enough to see it materialise.

Lastly, coming to the relief problem, I would suggest that part of our sinking fund be invested in agricultural and development loans within the State, instead of being as at present taken out of the State, to be invested in British Government gilt-edged securities. Relief works may be treated as capital expenditure, in which case they need not necessarily come from current revenue and the budget may be easily balanced.

As regards the three lakhs of rupees allotted for relief works, there is a talk that half of tbe amount might have to be spent at Munnar, and about Rs. 50,000 at Peermade, and that only one lakh of rupees would be left to the lowlands which suffered most of all. If it is only the case of means of communication,—roads and bridges,—three lakhs of rupees might suffice. But relief also has to be considered and—relief for the people most affected by the floods. The two lakhs of rupees proposed to be spent in the High Range may be absolutely necessary to bring Devicolam and Peermade to their original condition. That may not advance the cause of the suffering people at Kuttanad and other low-lying lands where the damage is heavy. The Government have been ready to express their willingness to make further allotments whenever called upon. We only hope that the Chief Engineer will be as responsive as the Government. I cannot let this opportunity pass without bestowing a tribute upon him for the fair and even-handed way in which works have been distributed in South and North Travancore this year.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I desire, on behalf of the community I represent, to offer my sympathy to Government on the disaster that has recently befallen the State. In common with other agriculturists, tea and rubber planters have suffered a great deal especially in the High Range where the whole area of tea has been swept away, to say nothing of the loss and damage done to factories, roads and bridges.

PRESIDENT: Please speak louder.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I would take this opportunity to thank the Government for the ready assistance they gave the planters in the matter of supplying expert Supervisors to supervise the work of the temporary repairing of some of the roads—the labour having been provided by the planters—and so enabling them to bring food up to their labourers and others. If this had not been seen to promptly, it is difficult to realise what the consequences might have been.

Whilst the loss of life is deplorable and the loss of property is bound to be very hard on a section of the people, I do not think it necessary to

take such a very pesimistic view as to the outlook, as has been done by some of the previous speakers. I am sure the natural resources of the State are such that the country will very soon recover. And we know that, under an up-to-date and charitable Government, the people will not be made to wait in the meantime.

Now, I want to say a few words regarding certain items in the budget. On the subject of forests, I have little to say; but I scarcely think the Financial Secretary is right in saying that the loss of revenue is due to the poor demand for timber. I do not know that there is any less demand than in the previous year; in fact, I might be inclined to say the demand has been greater and the reason for the receipts being less is the fact that the Conservator has stood out for higher rates. If he had sold his timber at rates which would have enabled buyers to meet other Indian and foreign competition, he would have sold more of it. From all accounts he has now little to sell due to the recent disaster. It is not business to hold up stocks. The Conservator should be prepared to take a moderate profit and be content with it. Some of his predecessors had, as we know, rather bitter experiences through sticking to their stocks.

It is certainly gratifying, as the Financial Secretary says, to see a surplus in the working of the Railway. I note he says that this is brought about by reductions in working charges and interest; and while this is so far satisfactory, I think we are entitled to some explanation as to why the first half of the year ended with a loss of Rs. 95,055 and the second half with a surplus of Rs. 1,32,540. Working charges and interest cannot have varied so in two successive half years. It is very disappointing, however, to be told again that the receipts from the railway have to remain stationary. I had something to say last year at this time regarding the inadequate supply of wagons on the Travancore Section and the great inconvenience and loss business people were put to on this account. Well, the position has not improved in the slightest. We are still clamouring for wagons to carry our goods and it is most disappointing that Government do not insist on their railway being properly furnished in this respect. I have just recently learnt that a representative of the Government has been appointed to the South Indian Railway Advisory Board and I hope that gentleman will not mind my stating that I consider it is his business to keep in touch with the users of the railway in the State and see that their requirements are attended to. He may rest assured that we will not omit to let him know of our grievances in future. Meanwhile, I would ask Government to insist that more rolling stock be supplied; and I can assure you, Sir, that receipts will not long remain stationary, if this is done, but you will very soon see your railway a very satisfactory proposition bringing you back the money you have spent on it in the past.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Sir, I wish to join the previous speakers in expressing our gratefulness to Government for what has already been done by them to relieve the distress caused by the floods and for the generous provision made in the next year's budget.

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Louder, please.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I go over to the front seat?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Permit me, Sir, to express my feelings of gratefulness to Government for the prompt and vigorous measures already taken by them to alleviate the distress of the people caused by the recent floods and the very generous provision proposed to be made in the next year's budget for affording further reliefs and to facilitate the task of reconstruction. It is a matter of great consolation to the distressed population that the Government are doing all that they can. I can assure the Government that in this difficult task they can have the full sympathy and co-operation of the public. Let me, however, be permitted to point out to you, as has been pointed out by Mr. Kumara Pillai, that the Government should see that the help which they propose to give to the distressed population reaches them, and that too the really deserving section among them.

I regret I have to protest against the removal of expenditure on what is styled 'Military works' from the 'P. W. D.' to the 'Army.' This I consider—

PRESIDENT: What is your protest?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The change in classification. The transfer of the expenditure on military works from the P. W. D. to the Army, I consider, is not merely a change in classification as stated by the Financial Secretary. The alteration, it appears to me, is one by which the amount has been transferred from a votable item to a non-votable item.

PRESIDENT: It has been a non-votable item all along.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Yes, I know that. It was included in the P. W. D., *i. e.*, an item which is votable under the Regulation. In his memo, the Financial Secretary admitted that the head "Military" used to show only expenditure on account of the Nayar Brigade and the Body Guard. If this process is permitted, it is possible to concede that a good many items on P. W. D. and other items may be brought under non-votable heads. Section 11, clause (i), and Section 16, clause (i), of the Legislative Council Regulation take out of the powers of the Council only measures relating to "Our Military Forces including Nayar Brigade and Our Body Guard." Section 16, clause (vii) specifically mentions that expenditure classified under "Maramat" and "Political" alone is removed from the cognisance of the Council in this respect. The memorandum shows that under "Military" the expenditure on Nayar Brigade and Body Guard alone was shown. If the Regulation had contemplated that works now brought under the new

classification "Army" should be taken out of the power of the Council, they would have been specifically excluded. Inasmuch as that has not been done, the alteration, I submit, is not warranted and is illegal.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I wish to correct the member. It is not a new thing that was done.

PRESIDENT: He says he knows that.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The removal of expenditure on Anchal from P. W. D. to Anchal Capital Account also is open to objection. If the object in so doing is, as the Financial Secretary says, to exhibit capital charges on construction of Anchal buildings, the whole of the Anchal buildings ought to have been valued and the expenditure on them for maintenance should have been brought under "Anchal", so that we may have an accurate balance sheet of the working of the Anchal Department. If this had been done, we would have given our assent to it. If such a balance sheet had been prepared, the loss in the working of that department would be found to be considerable. The effect of the change is that the account of neither the P. W. D. nor the Anchal Department is accurate.

The Financial Secretary in his speech yesterday admitted that the budget presented by him has to be revised on account of the disaster that had befallen the State; and the budget prepared by him without taking into account the new factor occasioned by this unforeseen event is necessarily defective. It is therefore profitless to offer any criticism upon such a budget. The Financial Secretary also abstained from giving any explanation as to the basis of his estimate of most of the items of revenue and expenditure. I desire, however, to make a few general observations on the financial condition of the State. The Financial Secretary has, in the concluding portion of his speech, assured us that, when our financial position is restored, it will not be found wanting either in soundness or stability. I regret I cannot entertain the same optimistic view of the situation. The budget, as usual, contains the actuals of one year, the revised estimate for the current year and the draft estimate for the ensuing year. A close scrutiny of the figures given therein and in the appropriation statement reveals to my mind two facts. Firstly they do not represent the economic condition of the people, *i. e.*, there is no correspondence between the surplus shown therein and the material condition of the people. Secondly, there has been no consistent policy in regard to the administration of the finances; our financial position is rather unstable and the outlook is not bright.

I shall, as briefly as I possibly can, explain these from the information available to me from the Administration Reports. It is seen that during the quinquennium ending with 1098 there was a surplus of Rs. 39,39,000. This was made up after setting off the deficit of Rs. 1,96,000 in 1096 and 1097. It must also be remembered that, in 1093, various extraordinary expenses had to be incurred such as the *Murajapam*, His Highness the Maha Raja's *Shastyabdapurti* and contribution to the War Fund. In the previous quinquennium, 1088 to 1092, the net surplus was Rs. 3,91,000 after setting off the deficit of Rs. 15,44,000

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in 1089 and 1090. If these surpluses are due to the normal expansion of revenue without the imposition of any additional taxation, they may no doubt indicate increasing prosperity. The revenue settlement was concluded in 1084 and the growth of land revenue in subsequent years was mainly due to increased sale of *puduvals*. The restriction in regard to the purchase of lands by Europeans was removed in 1082. The activities of the Land Revenue Department were directed towards the rapid disposal of *puduvals* and the valuable tree-growth thereon. But in spite of all these, the expenditure had outstripped the revenue in 1089 and in 1090, the deficit being Rs. 15·44 lakhs. This was subsequently made up by the enhancement of the duty on salt in 1091 and the imposition of a duty on tea and by the reduction of non-recurring items of expenditure on public works to an undesirable extent. This reduction of expenditure has materially affected the people. In 1094 and 1095 there was abnormal increase in the value of timber on account of its demand for war purposes and also owing to other causes. This enabled the Government to balance the budget, but in 1096 and 1097 we had again deficit budgets. Hence in 1097, a tax on income had to be imposed and in 1098 we had the further enhancement of the duty on salt. We cannot overlook the fact that at the end of 1089 and 1095 there was change in the administration. These facts show clearly that the growth of revenue was not the outcome of any *normal* expansion of the fiscal resources of the country but due to forced imposition of fresh taxes from time to time and to the disposal of the *puduval* lands at the disposal of the Government and to the accidental circumstances of abnormal increase of the value of timber. They further show the absolute want of recuperative power in the masses, for taxation after taxation had to be kept up and useful public works had to be suspended to maintain the financial equilibrium. Indian economists ordinarily regard the consumption of salt as an indication of the material condition of the people. Applying this test, where do we stand? The consumption of salt in 1087 was 9,82,371 maunds; but in 1096 it was only 9,50,074 maunds. The population in 1087 was 34 lakhs, whereas, according to the Census of 1096, it was 40 lakhs, an increase of over 16 per cent. I need hardly say that the consumption has not kept pace with the advance of population and shows no signs of development whatever. This illustrates in a painful manner the material condition of the people. The Financial Secretary by some manipulation of accounts occasionally exhibits to us a short-lived prosperity budget. It is too early to base any inference on income tax as it was imposed only two years ago. The growth, if there is any in it, is a forced one and is not due to the increased earning capacity of the people.

The customs revenue, no doubt, shows occasional signs of development and the balance of trade is in our favour. Nevertheless, it is not steady. The play of the uncertainties of the market and the disorganised condition of the trade cannot be overlooked. It is also to be

remembered that tea and rubber industries are in the hands of a few foreign capitalists and if we exclude the value of these goods the balance in favour of Travancore is very little.

The growth of excise revenue shows only the increased activities of the department which have increased drunkenness in the land. This means increased misery and is the reverse of increasing prosperity. The policy enunciated by the Government in this House and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly is entirely different. It is sad to imagine that this wise policy has not been kept in view by the officers of the departments. It is seen from the *Census Report* that the output of home-grown paddy, in spite of the increase in the area brought under cultivation and the extension of irrigation facilities, has been going down chiefly on account of the deterioration of cattle due to the inability of the ryots to purchase them and also on account of their inability to purchase manures. Nearly 50 per cent. of the population live on tapioca or on some meagre diet. It is well known that the cultivation of tapioca causes greater exhaustion of the soil than any other crop. But in spite of these alarming facts, the level of taxation is kept up sufficiently high and no attempt is made to enquire into the defects of the present system of taxation and to find out a more desirable method. We occasionally hear whispers of a new survey and settlement. This is indeed heart-rending. These facts, so glaring and painful, immediately require earnest and careful consideration at the hands of the Government. These and similar facts lead to the conclusion that the economic condition of the people is steadily deteriorating. The soil is getting poorer and poorer every day. The financial position of the State is unstable. These facts demand the earnest and immediate attention of the Government. An enquiry into the economic condition of the people, which was being pressed on the attention of the Government, both in this House and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly for many years, can no longer be delayed. Upon the conclusion of that enquiry, a more scientific system of taxation and administration of finance should be introduced.

The administration of State treasuries requires the attention of the Government. As the matter in regard to the alleged defalcation in the Quilon District Treasury is *sub judice*, I do not propose to say anything more than this, *viz.*, that the defects of the existing system should be considered. The dual control now exercised over the District and sub-treasuries by the Dewan Peishkars and the Account Officer is open to various objections. Neither the verification of the cash balance nor the audit by the Account Office as is now done is sufficient to prevent fraud. If the defects are not in the system but due to the unsatisfactory working of it, Government should not hesitate to take vigorous measures to see that it is properly worked.

Another observation I have to make is that, in a small State like Travancore the financial resources of which are very limited and circumscribed by various factors, we have not only to maintain a financial equilibrium but to leave annually a small margin. The people

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are now unable to bear any further direct taxation. We have therefore to look for revenue by making our reproductive investments more paying, by economic management of them and also by tapping other sources of revenue and adopting a policy of retrenchment. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai has already referred to the necessity of the revision of the Interportal Convention of 1865 and of claiming our share of the import duty. Cochin who was a party to that convention was getting till recently only the amount fixed at the time of the convention as her share of the customs revenue. Since then the volume of trade and the customs revenue has increased considerably.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether Mr. Sankara Menon has calculated what would be the increase if the Interportal convention were revised?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): So far as I have been able to ascertain, the value of our imports has gone up considerably. I have not been able to get accurate figures.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai has mentioned the figures. You can draw inferences from those figures. That would enable you to calculate.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): At any rate, the amount received by Cochin as her share has increased considerably from what was fixed in the year 1865. It was only a lakh and odd in 1865.

PRESIDENT: Have you any authority for that statement? I have not been able to get it substantiated. I should like to know what your authority is, if you have any authority.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The Administration Report of Cochin itself refers to it.

PRESIDENT: Of which year?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): 1086 or 1087. From a lakh and odd it rose considerably high, though there appears to be some difference in the terms of the convention. It was left to Mr. Banerji when he was Dewan to re-open the question and to claim Cochin's due share. I am aware of the difference in the terms of the convention. May we hope that your advocacy in this matter will bear the same result as that of Mr. Banerji in Cochin?

Coming to the refund of the duty on tea, I do not find any justification for the claim of the British Government to a share in the duty on tea produced in and exported from this State. In this respect, Sir, I may also say that it is also the partiotic duty of all Travancore tea planters to see that the tea grown in this country is exported as far as possible only through Travancore ports so that the payment of any share of the duty on such goods may be avoided. The Government in their turn must provide the necessary facilities for shipping tea from Travancore ports.

Another chief article of export from Travancore is rubber. Next to cocoanut and tea comes rubber. I cannot therefore understand the justification in exempting this article from duty. At the twelfth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, I represented to the Government the necessity of imposing duty on tea, rubber and other products and I thought I made out a very strong case at the time. But the Government were not even pleased to note my suggestions. But before a few months elapsed the Government of India imposed a duty on tea and our Government also thought that they were justified in imposing a similar duty here.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether it is his view that the rubber planters here are making an appreciable margin of profit?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The cocoanut planters also do not make much profit. I have got the figures in regard to cocoanut and rubber.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Is it his view that the rubber planters are making any profit?

PRESIDENT: That is not what he says. He only advocates a policy.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I ask him whether in the last two or three years the rubber planters have made any profit.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I am well aware that rubber has, of late, been rather hard hit. Cocoanut and all other industries have been hard hit since the commencement of the war.

PRESIDENT: In the case of tea, do you think that also has been hard hit?

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Cocoanut produce has not been affected. It has been paying very well indeed.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Tea has not suffered.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether any duty is anywhere being paid now on rubber?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): That was just what I was about to say. The Government of India did not impose any duty on rubber probably on account of the fact that very little rubber is produced in British India and that they could not expect any appreciable revenue from it. But we find that the Ceylon Government had imposed so far back as 1915 an export duty of 75 cents per 100 lbs. Therefore it seems to me, Sir, that there is no justification for exempting rubber from export duty.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether he really knows that the production and export of rubber have been restricted in almost all rubber-growing areas?

PRESIDENT: Not in India.

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I refer to rubber-growing areas generally.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I am aware of that. That does not affect my case. All those restrictions have been made in Ceylon where there is duty on rubber.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Is he aware of the fact that in Ceylon there is a production of 500 to 600 lbs. of rubber per acre while here the production is only 250 to 300 lbs. per acre?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): That does not affect the question at all. Here also they can make the yield greater. I never contended that the same tariff should be imposed here as in Ceylon.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): They cannot increase the yield, and the question whether a product is working at a profit or loss does not affect the principle?

PRESIDENT: That is his opinion. You cannot argue, Mr. Mackie. (*Laughter.*)

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The increased yield in one country does not in any way affect the fundamental principle of taxation.

The attention of the Government has been invited both in this House and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly to the unsatisfactory working of the Travancore branch of the South Indian Railway. In spite of the gratifying statements given to us by Mr. George, it is still giving us considerable anxiety. Our capital liability is increasing as our sinking fund accumulates. We do not know whether we shall be able to pay off this liability unless we take steps to set the matter right. The development of our trade is considerably affected by the unsatisfactory working of this line as has been pointed out by Mr. Mackie and other speakers. The sale of Travancore timber has decreased on account of the increase of the freight and also on account of the fact that sufficient facilities are not afforded for the export of timber from the State to the Tinnevelly and Madura Districts. During the years 1086 to 1095, there was a good deal of timber trade between Travancore and the adjoining British districts and that has since been considerably reduced. Therefore, it seems to me that it is the duty of the Government to see that some arrangement is made by them in regard to the freight and also in regard to facilities for the export of Travancore products to the adjoining British districts.

With reference to retrenchment, I do not at all say that the Government are unmindful of effecting retrenchment. It was observed by the Dewan in his address to the nineteenth session of the Popular Assembly that retrenchment at any price is not sound financial policy and that there is a limit beyond which it will lead to undesirable results. No one disputes the truth or wisdom of that statement; but in my humble opinion sufficient attention is not given to ascertain correctly the limit

beyond which retrenchment cannot be made. Public opinion is that the State service is over-manned and is top heavy. In addition to the permanent sanctioned strength, we have in service a fairly large number of extras, supernumeraries and additional hands. These should be done away with and work should be exacted from the permanent staff. If they are unfit, they must be replaced by more efficient hands.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to time. It is already 25 minutes. Do you want more time?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Yes, I want just five or six minutes.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): This leads to the consideration of recruitment to the service. No subject has been more insistently pressed before this Council and before the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly than the subject of recruitment to the public service. The complaints of nepotism and communal partiality are being brought to the notice of Government every year. It is impossible for Government to satisfy every applicant for service in the State. But the fact that these complaints are not without foundation is evident from the figures published in answer to the interpellations of some of the members. I beg to be permitted to make a suggestion in regard to this matter. The Government should appoint a selection board or boards for selecting persons for filling up vacancies each year in every branch of the service. The board should conduct a competitive examination and must select a panel of persons from whom appointments should be made, due regard being had to the various other considerations. A trial may be given to this or any other similar scheme. I have no doubt that it will be better than the present system.

Owing to the distress caused by the floods recently, it seems to me that Government will be justified also in suspending the time-scale increment allowed to officers of the various departments. The time has also come to stop the grants to the municipalities. They are given powers of taxation. Now certain municipalities impose taxes to meet their demands when the grants to them are stopped, I submit, there is no justification for not compelling every municipality to find its own resources.

The expenditure in regard to maintenance of T. B.s and *satrams*, on primary education and on *vaidyasalas*, within municipal limits should be reduced and these institutions must be handed over to the municipalities and they should be made to meet the expenditure thereon. The number of medical dispensaries should be reduced and a system of grant-in-aid to qualified medical practitioners should be introduced. The number of high-paid officers in the Medical Department should be reduced and honorary surgeons and physicians should be appointed in important hospitals.

Time does not allow me to elaborate these schemes. I suggest these for the consideration of the Government. If these measures are adopted, we may probably be able to tide over the present difficulties,

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

There is one other point that I wish to refer to, *viz.*, the unsatisfactory working of the Canals and Ferries Regulation and the indifference of the controlling authorities in not framing rules under the Regulation, and in not enforcing them, which has been the cause of the loss of many precious lives recently. The report of the Redeemer Committee shows that there has been very little supervision by the controlling officers. I am sorry to observe that the final orders of Government on this report, so far as the officers responsible for the working of this Regulation are concerned, have not given any public satisfaction.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattūr*): Sir, the revenues of a flourishing state must bear a reasonable and definite proportion to the wealth of its people. In our country there has been a rapid rise in its revenue. It will be seen from the budget placed before us that the State revenue has risen from Rs. 138 lakhs in 1087 to Rs. 195 lakhs in 1096 and to a little above Rs. 2 crores in 1099. But the Financial Secretary has not been able to give us hitherto figures to get at the total wealth of our country and the average income of the individual. In considering the question of taxing the people, a fairly accurate idea of what they are worth is necessary and it would be nothing short of oppression to tax the people beyond their means. In the general discussion of the budget for the last two years, the necessity of ascertaining the national wealth of the people and of conducting an economic survey of the state and collecting and publishing annually all kinds of statistics were pointed out. But I am sorry to state that the Financial Secretary has not uttered a word on this portion of the discussion. I do hope that he will be kind enough to avail himself of this opportunity at least to give his opinion on this point.

Before I pass on to the budget, Sir, I should like to make a reference to certain losses incurred by the State, and not contemplated in the budget. What I mean is the loss of the tax-payer's money sustained through sheer neglect of duty or wilful misappropriation on the part of certain officers of the State. We all know instances of officers issuing wrong cheques, encashing false cheques and bills and misappropriating public money on false accounts. This state of affairs, Sir, is indeed undesirable, if not deplorable. I ask, Sir, does it not form part of the legitimate duties of heads of departments as well as the inspecting officers to trace out such instances then and there? Have not the Government authorised or deputed inspecting officers to verify, check and affirm the correctness of the accounts kept up by the various departments of the State? Suppose the Head-master of an English High School collects Rs. 2,000 a month as fee money and remits to the treasury only Rs. 1,500; or a treasury officer by some manipulation of figures misappropriates money and valuables from the treasury; or again some officer collects more money than is actually due or less. When, by whom and where can such actions be found out? Are we not having instances of such things being found out only a long time after the

occurrence and that in some cases by mere chance? How can this neglect of duty on the part of the inspecting officers or the departmental heads be accounted for? Who is responsible for the losses if they are irrecoverable? These are questions, Sir, which, I believe have to be answered by the Financial Secretary or any other responsible member on the other side of the House.

Though the Financial Secretary was at first able to prepare, as usual, a surplus budget for 1100, he was soon forced by circumstances beyond his control to convert the same into a deficit budget before its actual presentation before this House. The recent floods, the like of which was never before witnessed in Travancore, have by spreading desolation and distress to the people upset all calculations in the budget. It is consoling to see that provision has been made as far as possible to alleviate the distress of the people, by placing Rs. 43,000 at the disposal of the revenue officers and Municipal Presidents for gratuitous relief, by increasing the grant to the P. W. D. for the restoration of damaged communications, etc., and by raising the allotment for loans for the relief of the agricultural population. But, in consideration of the appalling magnitude of the havoc caused by the floods, I am afraid, Sir, that unless the Central Floods Relief Committee rise equal to the occasion and form branch committees in different parts of the state to do vigorous work for relieving the poor, the help rendered by the Government may be found to be insufficient. It is, however, gratifying that the Financial Secretary has promised more funds for the purpose, if found necessary during the course of the year.

The budget estimate of taxes on income for the year 1098 was Rs. 4,75,000, while the actual collection for the year was Rs. 5,01,865. In 1099 the estimate was Rs. 5 lakhs which was subsequently revised as Rs. 5,10,000. The amount to be collected during the year 1100 is Rs. 5½ lakhs. As the estimate under this head increases every year one would naturally suppose that the income of the tax-payer is also increasing proportionately. But I know the state of affairs to be quite different. Instances are not rare of revenue officers or income tax collectors imposing income tax on persons whose annual income is below the minimum fixed, and on the other hand of underrating the income of persons who actually earn much more. As the decision of these officers is rather arbitrary and is in many cases based on what they call confidential enquiry, the poor assessees suffer a great deal. Many representations have been made both in this House and the S. M. P. Assembly regarding this matter. Mr. Subba Aiyar promised two years ago a revision of the Regulation on the lines of the British Indian Act. I would now remind him of his promise and request him to do the needful without further delay.

The budget estimates under sale proceeds of Government lands for 1097 was Rs. 4,78,600 while the actual amount collected was only Rs. 3,71,205—*i. e.*, less by over a lakh. In 1098 the figures were Rs. 5,48,300 and Rs. 4,00,115 respectively, *i. e.*, the collection was

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less by about Rs. 1½ lakhs. Similarly in 1099 it appears that there would be a fall in the revenue by half a lakh. The income estimated for the year 1100 is Rs. 4½ lakhs and as in the previous years here also a fall in the revenue is naturally to be expected. This steady fall in the revenue, Sir, I must repeat, is due to the hard Puduval Rules recently brought into existence. Therefore, in the interest of both the Government and the people, I do once again emphatically point out that, unless the *puduval* rules are so modified as to fix the rate of *tharavila* according to the quality of the land, the Government and the people cannot emerge out of this difficulty.

In this connection I find it absolutely necessary, Sir, to refer to the rules regarding the registry of town lands and the consequent hardships caused to the people who go in for such lands. A notification was recently published by the Government declaring the lands in 17 non-municipal stations also as town lands under Rule 31 of the Revised Puduval Rules. Thus, the extent of town lands coming under the operation of these rules has been considerably increased. The tax now imposed on town lands is out of all proportion to the annual income obtainable therefrom. The principle according to which this tax is calculated does not suit the conditions of Travancore. The annual tax on town lands is fixed by dividing three-fourths of their market value by 25. Thus if the market value of a piece of land be Rs. 100 the tax to be paid thereon is Rs. 3. This would mean that 3 per cent. of the amount invested on town lands is required for the payment of the annual tax. The income that the land-owner may get from his investment does not generally exceed 4 per cent. So, after paying the tax he gets only a net income of 1 per cent. In the case of dry lands in Kottarakara and other taluks, the average income per acre is often less than Rs. 7 while according to the rule the minimum tax to be paid is Rs. 7 chs. 4 per acre. Again it has to be pointed out that the maximum tax on town lands fixed under the rules is Rs. 571-12 chs. per acre. This, I submit, is an enormous tax which no town lands in Travancore can ever bear.

Another source of revenue that has recently sprung up is also worthy of mention. That is what is called fees on demand notices for land tax. Till the end of 1098, the number of such notices issued was comparatively small and the fees collected negligibly low. But this year the number has become alarmingly great. With a view to get at the correct figures I asked the Government by an interpellation during the last session of the Council for information regarding the total number of demand notices issued this year and the amount collected as fees thereon, but no answer was given. This time also I gave notice of the same question which being late by a day was not admitted. In Medam last I happened to see some notices issued from certain taluks bearing serial numbers ranging between 12,000 and 23,000! On a modest calculation, it may not be far wrong to suppose that about a lakh of rupees has been collected this

year as fees on demand notices. If this system is allowed to continue, Sir, it will be a regular drain on the purses of the poor people. From very early times the *pakuthi* officers used to go themselves to the tax-payers for collecting the revenue. But at present by remaining idle in their offices and issuing demand notices they are able to shirk their responsibility in collecting the revenue.

Another regrettable feature in the collection of such fees is that the taluk authorities issue separate demand notices to the same person who has to pay tax as per different *pattas* in the same *pakuthi*. Seeing also Sir, that a person holds only one *Tandaper* for all the properties included in different *pattas*, I think it will be fairer and more reasonable to issue only one notice in such cases. I hope Mr. Robinson will issue favourable orders regarding this matter.

For the past many years, the minor irrigation works of the State have been lying almost neglected. This will be evident from the budget allotment for such works for the previous years. Though for 1099 a little above a lakh of rupees was allotted, I am not in a position to know where and how the money was spent. I can only say, that nothing was spent in my taluk and in some of the neighbouring taluks. The figure given in the next year's budget is also not encouraging.

I need hardly point out that the maintenance and improvement of all irrigation works of the State is a matter which should engross the serious care and attention of the Government. I believe no one will disagree with me when I say that the present condition of such works is far from satisfactory. The failure of crops, consequent upon the absence of irrigation facilities in the country, is well-known. As one member seems to have put it in this Council on a former occasion, next to the expenditure in the Civil List and the subsidy to the British Government, the most important item of public expenditure should be "irrigation works." I am of opinion that all the taluks of the state should be taken up simultaneously and some work or other done in each taluk. The present method of allotting some money for irrigation and spending the whole of it in one or two taluks only, does not produce any real benefit to the people at large.

The unworkable nature of the Irrigation Regulation has already been brought to the notice of the Government through this Council and as such I do not want to repeat the same. All that I propose now is that larger sums should be allotted annually for irrigation, care being taken that all the taluks of the State get their share in the distribution of funds. The Irrigation Regulation should be so modified or amended as to enable some work being done in all the taluks every year. Irrigation boards may be constituted in all taluks to draw up schemes for improving irrigation facilities, due regard being given to the urgency of the situation in each case. By such an arrangement the funds allotted by the Government for works of irrigation would properly be utilised.

The budget allotment on education for 1100 is found to be Rs. 38,59,200 as against Rs. 36,07,900 for 1099. This shows an increase

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of Rs. 2,51,300. This increase, I believe, is partly due to the additional expenditure involved in the bifurcation of H. H. the Maha Raja's College. With the bifurcation of the college people hoped that the long-standing grievance in respect of college admission would be redressed. But subsequent events show that the reform has not come up to their expectations. Admission is still denied to many students of Travancore. Sir, in view of the fact that large sums of money have been spent by the people towards English education in the shape of endowments, buildings and furniture, it is really painful that they should be compelled to send their children outside the State for collegiate education. In the present age when the humanities are being slowly brushed aside by the sciences, it is rather a retrograde step to ask a student to give up his science studies. Further the English School Department does not hold out any hopes to the History and the Malayalam graduates in the matter of appointments. I therefore urge upon the Government the necessity of making suitable adjustments so as to admit a larger number of students into the College of Science.

In this connection, a word about the management and control of the departmental schools of the State will not, I believe, be out of place. In his reply communicated to the president of the public meeting held at Kottarakara regarding certain complaints against Mr. Dharmaraja Aiyar, the Head-master of the local English High school, Mr. Hodgson, the ex-Director of Public Instruction said: "As I am responsible to the Government for the management of the departmental schools of the State, you should address your representations regarding them to the Chief Secretary to Government." The propriety of this statement, Sir, is something I cannot understand. Though Mr. Hodgson said like that to the people of Kottarakara, their thanks are due to you, Sir, for having redressed their grievances. In regard to Mr. Hodgson's reply I need only say that the Director or any other officer of the State is always responsible to the people also.

Sir, the appointments in recent years of persons to the posts of Head-masters and the recruitment of teachers in English Schools have become the subject of very strong comment and criticism. Something is certainly wrong somewhere. Time there was when English education in Travancore grew under the fostering care and able guidance of eminent educationists. The names of Messrs. P. Aiyappan Pillai, K. Raghunatha Aiyar, S. Srinivasa Aiyar, C. Krishna Pillai, S. Padmanabha Aiyar, R. Vasudeva Rao, K. Paramu Pillai, R. Easwara Pillai, C. M. Hessing and M. Rama Varman Tampan will ever remain in the minds of Travancoreans. The striking personality and strong morals, the stern discipline and parental love towards students, which characterised these gentlemen, are qualities very rarely found in many of the their successors of to-day. In my opinion, it should be the policy of the Government to select the best available men as Head-masters of High

schools—men who besides being good teachers could smile with children in their joys and feel with them in their griefs. (*Mr. A. Hoogewerf: Hear, hear.*) The recruitment of assistant teachers is also, a no less important matter. No steady principle appears to have been followed here. The vernacular branch of the Education Department is also not free from complaints regarding appointments and transfers. It is earnestly hoped that Mr. Stephenson the new Director of Public Instruction, will carefully steer his department clear of the numerous shoals and sand banks that lie concealed in its course.

The statistics of the appropriation accounts Sir, show that from 1093 to 1098, *i e.*, within six years, the gross revenue of the State has increassd by Rs. 38,85,077, while the expenditure on salaries, travelling allowances and office contingencies has disproportionately increased by Rs. 25½ lakhs. Other expenditure on items of public utility like Public Works, Educational grants, etc., has increased only by Rs. 11½ lakhs. These figures indicate that further retrenchment on salaries, contingencies, etc., has become an absolute necessity. The abolition of certain superfluous appointments such as Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Inspectors of the Excise Department, Assistant Superintendents of the Police Department, Assistant Tahsildars of the Land Revenue Department and Personal Assistants to the heads of various departments, can be effected with advantage and without impairing the efficiency of the administration. Similarly, the abolition of the additional courts and benches of the Judicial Department, a re-arrangement and redistribution of officers in the superior grade of the Land Revenue Department by eliminating either the Dewan Peishkars or the Division Assistants and by appointment of First Class Magistrates for three or four taluks together, with appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of Stationary Magistrates, are also matters which require the earnest and the earliest attention of the Government.

Mr. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, on behalf of the people of Agastisvaram taluk, I assure you, Sir, that we fully sympathise with our brethren in North and Central Travancore in their sufferings and sorrows.

We are sincerely grateful to our Maha Raja, the Dewan, and other official and non-official gentlemen who have afforded relief to the distressed in various ways.

We in the South are also collecting rice and money for the relief of our brethren in distress and I sincerely hope that, with the liberal help and healthy co-operation of the people and the Government, adequate timely relief will be afforded to the helpless and the needy.

So far as the Land Revenue Department is concerned, the time has come for examining the question of amalgamation and redistribution of taluks. It is now two years since the Revenue-Devaswom separation took place. The Land Revenue Commissioner will be able to say whether, with the relief afforded to the Land Revenue Department, the

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Tahsildars may take up the administration of some more areas under them. Some attempt, I think, should be made in that direction.

I had occasion to ascertain the number of non-caste Hindus and non-Hindus entertained in the Revenue Department by means of an interpellation, and I hope the increase hereafter of the unrepresented will be steady and encouraging.

Coming to administration of justice, the tendency that has now become prevalent has to be discouraged as far as possible. Whenever a temporary court is sanctioned, the attempt is to continue it or find out work for it, so much so that, at the end of every year, the work of the High Court has probably come to be to find out a place or berth for the location of a temporary court somewhere, lest it should be disbanded as superfluous. As a rule, temporary appointments are never abolished. The attempt has been more often to find facts and figures to justify the retention of the *personnel* in the temporary grade by finding new stations for them. Such a tendency ought not to be allowed to go on.

As regards criminal justice, some of the non-official members have been representing for the last two years that a percentage of the magistracy should be recruited from the Bar, provided the selected candidates satisfy all the necessary conditions and possess the required qualifications. The suggestion was the subject matter of a resolution tabled for discussion both at the last Council and this Council. So far as Government are concerned, I hope, the reasoning given will convince them. It is open to the Government to give effect to the suggestion in the resolution if they are so inclined instead of waiting for a full-dress debate on a resolution on which opinion must be more or less unanimous. The resolution was passed unanimously at all the annual vakils' conferences. It is seen from the reviews of the High Court on the returns of criminal courts during some quarters, that they are not satisfied with the work there. The only alternative as suggested by the press in the country is to alter the system of recruitment to the subordinate magistracy.

It has been a practice to suggest that the Maramat Department may be placed under a Sub-Engineer or an Assistant Engineer and the Chief Engineer may be asked to supervise the same. Whatever may have been the exigencies of service which necessitated the creation of the Maramat Engineership, the experiment may be tried for a year or two. If one engineership is abolished in P. W. D. and a Maramat Engineership is created, I fail to see where the retrenchment referred to comes in. The retrenchment, wherever and whenever made, should not be apparent but real. Similarly, the experiment is worth trying to have a Sub-Engineer or an Assistant Engineer at the Workshops. It will be admitted that there are many honest officers among us, who can see that no corruption creeps in. I am aware that it is an important institution where a responsible officer should be stationed. The question whether a Sub-Division Officer will not rise equal to the occasion an

feel the responsibility especially when he is next door to the watchful and vigilant Chief Engineer who can see things going on in the Workshops. I do not say that he can always inspect the Workshops and Stores. But I feel confident that his stay there will have much to do with the management and working of the institution.

I am thankful to the Government for increasing the annual grant to libraries and reading rooms to Rs. 150. This is no doubt an improvement on the old state of affairs, but it is not of a sufficiently far-reaching character. According to the new rules of affiliation, a sum of Rs. 36 will have to be paid every year from the mofussil libraries to the Trivandrum Public Library. If this affiliation is effected, it means practically that the new maximum grant actually at the disposal of any library will be only Rs. 114, the old grant being Rs. 100. In many deserving cases the maximum grant has not been sanctioned, as for instance the Nagercoil Club Library and Reading Room. I beg to suggest that the amount under grants to libraries and reading rooms should be increased.

The amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes must always be a matter of paramount concern to a civilised Government. I must state that neither the registry of house-sites in the names of the depressed classes, nor the system of sinking wells and opening approach roads for them has been satisfactory. I do not know if the Sambavar Elevation Committee, as at present constituted, has gone a great way to solve the whole question. It must be more comprehensive and should meet oftener. I think some persons who are not Sambavars but who are really interested in the matter should also be nominated to the said Committee. They must meet regularly, understand all wants, hold inspections and suggest remedies and make suitable recommendations to Government.

I should like to say a word about the local allowances given to some officers at Trivandrum who happen to be members of the head offices of some departments. If this local allowance is something like the presidency allowance given in Madras, then all officers in Trivandrum who are of the same grade as their colleagues in the mofussil, namely, Munsiffs, Magistrates, teachers, Sub-Registrars, etc., must get this substitute for presidency allowance. If it is something granted as a compensation for travelling allowance, to which they would be entitled if they were in the executive line, then I desire to point out that travelling allowance is given to an officer to cover the actual expenses incurred by him in travelling in the interests of the public service. It is a fundamental principle that such allowance is not to be a source of profit, so that there can be no compensation when there can be no profit according to the rules. From the *Service Regulations* it is found that a local allowance is given to an officer in addition to pay for duties which do not belong properly to his office or in consideration of exceptional local circumstances. If the Government think that it is on the former ground that these allowances are given, there is not much difference either. I can understand where local allowance is given to the

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Assistant Professor of Physics for his duties in the Observatory which do not form part of his work or in the case of the Director of Registration doing the duties of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies or where a Judge of the High Court is the Principal of the Law College or where a Professor of History or English does the duties of the Secretary to the Public Library or the Warden of a Hostel. I do not know whether such a distinction would apply in the cases which I have referred to at the beginning. I leave it to the Government to make their position clear and make a statement as to the reasons for sanctioning such local allowances.

Coming to the question of travelling allowance, a word has to be said. Government must invite the attention of heads of departments to the fact that hasty marches are prohibited and must be discountenanced so far as they and their subordinates are concerned. The records sent in that connection must be carefully scrutinised by the Government and the other countersigning authorities. The rule that travelling allowance should not be a matter of profit should not be allowed to be a dead letter but a living and working principle of administration. Officers must be told that, for persons whose presence is not necessary and whose department has not even a remote connection with the work in question, the Suchindram *Utsavam* or the *Ashtami* at Vaikam should not ordinarily form occasions for inspection. Similarly officers should not one fine morning think of a circuit, run up to the Cape or Shencottah and return the same evening or the next morning. I do admit that occasions may arise for such sudden circuits as, for instance, the opportune visits of the Chief Engineer and the Land Revenue Commissioner and others to the areas affected by floods. I am sincerely grateful for the same. But they are exceptional instances. As a rule, officers, when they make tours, must, as far as possible, arrange them in such a way as not to make it a hasty drive or an incomplete circuit. A single routine item should not take an officer from Trivandrum to the north or south for a day to facilitate his return the next morning. If they are careful in arranging a programme to hear the people and receive representations and make their tours complete so far as the various purposes are concerned, it would result in much saving to the Government. I do not for a moment mean that, on an emergent occasion like the floods or a riot, they must not stir out of their headquarters. My request is that some attention be devoted to the matter in the interest of economy.

During the years, 1085 to 1090, I believe, a variety of circumstances operated to place at the disposal of the Government large revenues. The sale of tank-beds, forest coupes, the reclamation of portions of the Vembanad lake, the assignment of *puduvals*—all these brought huge sums into the coffers of the State. But the situation has to be faced that the increased salaries and establishments continue to be stationary and recurring while the items which brought large revenues

cannot be expected to be so recurring for years to come. I may also state that the unexpected doubling of the salt duty to some extent contributed to ease the situation, while the effects of the temperance movement have not yet been felt in respect of excise revenue. Our *puduvals* and forests cannot give us the same revenue every year. There must come a time when our land acquisition charges have to be met while the land at our disposal may not be extensive.

This is the last budget debate, so far as this Council, as at present constituted, is concerned, and I hope the Government will be pleased to give a statement showing clearly the non-recurring items of revenue during the last fifteen years and the recurring increase in salaries and establishments during these years. There has been increased taxation all these years, the increase in the salt duty and the school fees, the levy of income tax and of all taxes under the Municipal Regulation, the increase of fees under registration and anchal, of copying fees, process fees, the imposition of court fees for various purposes under Regulations and Rules, of irrigation cess and of new tolls numerous in number—a development of such a situation is so disquieting and extraordinary that a close scrutiny, in my humble opinion, is necessary. I request the Government to undertake such an examination and build the superstructure of the country's expenditure on the foundation of certain recurring revenue.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know what is meant by 'depressed classes'—whether those who have no property or those who are backward in education?

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): I refer mainly to the South Travancore Sambavars.

The Council adjourned at 4-55 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Monday.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

Monday, 4th August, 1924.

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-four of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Mr. Ignasimuttu, Teacher.

35. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the appreciation of the services of Mr. Ignasimuttu, who was transferred from the Kottar English High School to Shencottah, by the public of Nagercoil and the protest meeting held in Nagercoil about his transfer;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Ignasimuttu was highly spoken of by Dr. Clark, Mr. Pryde and the earlier Head-masters of the Kottar English High School; and

(*c*) why Mr. Ignasimuttu, who has put in a service of ten years in the Education Department and nine years in the schools of the State, has not been promoted to the first grade, while Mr. T. S. Pitchu Aiyangar, B. A., L. T., was promoted after less than two years, Messrs. G. Srinivasa Tatachari and S. V. Ramaswami Aiyar, after about six years, and scores of others, after eight years?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the member is referred to the answer to question No. 513 [345] (*a*) asked by Mr. Paul V. Daniel at the meeting of the Council held on the 12th June, 1924.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

(b) The teaching work of Mr. Ignasimuttu was well spoken of by Dr. Clark and Messrs. Pryde and Ramakrishna Kukilaya.

(c) Promotion to the first grade is given not merely on grounds of length of service. As regards Mr. T. S. Pitchu Aiyangar, B. A., L. T., the member is referred to the answer to question No. 254 [399] asked by Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai at the meeting of the Council held on the 19th January, 1924. Mr. G. Srinivasa Tatachari was promoted to the first grade as he was recommended as fit for promotion by his immediate superiors. There is no officer named S. V. Ramaswami Aiyar in the department.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that Mr. Ignasimuttu is one of the very few Roman Catholics in the Education Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that he passed his B. A. with first class results in 1905, qualified himself for the A. C. P. diploma of London in 1909, and took the L. T. in 1917, scoring two distinctions and the first place in the Training College at Trivandrum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I wish to hear that question once more. It consists of a number of parts.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that he passed his B. A. with first class results in 1905?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that he qualified himself for the A. C. P. diploma of London in 1909?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that he ook the L. T. in 1917, scoring two distinctions and the first place in the Training College at Trivandrum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that Mr. Pryde, when he was Inspector of English Schools, wrote about him that he was the best teacher of English in Secondary Schools?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is there. His teaching work has been spoken of well by Mr. Pryde.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): But my question is whether the Government are aware that Mr. Pryde wrote of him about the end

of 1922 that he was the best English teacher in the Secondary School Department of the State.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware of that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that even after he joined the service he was teaching in the School Final Class the most important subject, *viz.*, English, almost during the whole period?

PRESIDENT: English is the most important subject. Is that what you mean to say?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir, I think so.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He was teaching English in Form VI of the Kottar English High School.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that he is put to teach in the lower forms at Shencottah?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He has been asked to teach English in Form III also at Shencottah.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that he has submitted memorials to the Director of Public Instruction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In regard to what?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): About his claims being superseded from time to time.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will they be pleased to enquire from the Director of Public Instruction or by writing direct to Mr. Ignasimuttu whether he has been from time to time submitting memorials regarding his claims being superseded?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government see no reason to enquire into that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Answer to part (*c*) says that promotion depends on length of service.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is said: "promotion to the first grade is given not merely on grounds of length of service."

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What does the answer to the question asked by Mr. Daniel say?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretarg to Government*): The member will have to refer to that answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not that answer say that promotion to the first grade depends upon length of service in the second grade?

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Promotion depends *not merely* on length of service.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What else then?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The amount of pay drawn by the teacher in the second grade at the time a vacancy arises in the first grade is another criterion. That is a very important consideration.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not Mr. Ignasimuttu draw the highest pay then?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No, he did not. His pay now is only Rs. 80.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was his pay then?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It must have been less, Rs. 65 or Rs. 70.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What else are the criteria in the matter of promotion from the second grade to the first grade?

PRESIDENT: You are repeating the question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): One or two reasons have been given. What are the other criteria?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have already stated that, besides length of service, the amount of pay drawn by a certain teacher in the second grade at the time a vacancy arises in the first grade is taken into consideration. Another ground is the higher qualification of the teacher. The teacher may be an M. A., or a B. A. (Hons.) and so on. In such cases, the superior qualification is taken into consideration.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that all those who superseded Mr. Ignasimuttu have superior claims—greater length of service and higher pay than he?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If any have gone above, they might have had one or other of the higher claims referred to by me.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the certificate of Mr. Pryde?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware that Mr. Pryde ever stated that he was the very best teacher in the department.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether Mr. Pryde made any such statement?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government do not propose to do so.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In the interests of Mr. Ignasimuttu, I beg to request the Government to make that enquiry.

Complaints against Head-master, English High School, Kottar.

36. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the complaints against the Head-master of the Kottar English High School?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are aware that certain complaints have been made against the Head-master, English High School, Kottar. The complaints have been enquired into and found to be groundless.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the nature of the complaints that were made against the Head-master?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member wants to know the nature of the complaints.

PRESIDENT: I do not think it strictly arises out of the question, but you may answer.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I was stated in the petition that he was wanting in sympathy, that he awarded unreasonable punishments, that his attitude towards the local non-Brahmins was hostile and that his treatment of the parents of school children was not considerate. These were the grounds alleged in the complaint.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): By whom was the complaint made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): By Mr. Kumaraswami Pillai.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know who he is?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Mr Kumaraswami Pillai was a member of the Popular Assembly; but it was ascertained on enquiry that the petition was neither signed nor written by him.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the sort of enquiry? By whom and through whom was the enquiry made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The enquiry was made by the Inspector of English Schools.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that no independent enquiry was made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Independent of whom?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Independent of the Inspector of English Schools.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No since the Inspector found that the complaints were groundless.

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did the Inspector summon Mr. Kumaraswami Pillai and ascertain that he did not send the petition?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Inspector might have summoned him. I have no information. That is the only way of ascertaining that fact.

Appointment of Teachers.

37. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) What is the principle adopted in the appointment of teachers?

(*b*) If science or mathematics teachers are preferred, why is it that science and mathematics teachers are sent out from English schools to the vernacular branch as Assistant Inspectors, Training School Head-masters and Personal and Office Assistants.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The principle kept in view in the appointment of teachers is to meet the needs of the schools concerned.

(*b*) Science and mathematics graduates are preferred when science and mathematics hands are required. Science and mathematics teachers are also sent out from English schools as Assistant Inspectors, etc., because they belong to the same *cadre* as Assistant Inspectors, etc., and are sent out on executive duty according to the exigencies of the service and in the interests of the department. The Director of Public Instruction will, however, be requested to go into the question and see how far such transfers can be avoided.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is not preferential treatment given to mathematics and science graduates even when the teaching of science and mathematics is not absolutely necessary in a school?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): What kind of preference?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In the matter of appointments.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Is it meant recruitment?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is only when physics and mathematics hands are needed that they are taken.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know why they are not given promotion in the mathematics and science branches instead of in the Malayalam and Sanskrit branches?

PRESIDENT: The answer is there.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) *Vide* part (*b*) of the answer,

Women's College.

38. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is a fact that two lady graduates had applied for the Sanskrit Pandit's place in the Women's College this year and in the previous year;

(*b*) if so, whether they had not the same qualifications as the present Sanskrit Pandit of the college;

(*c*) whether the Government recognise the policy of appointing women teachers in place of men teachers in this college; and

(*d*) whether provision cannot be made for the present Sanskrit Pandit of the college elsewhere?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Only one lady graduate has applied for the place of Sanskrit Pandit in the Women's College.

(*b*) Both the applicant and the present pandit have taken the same degree in the same class. Government have no information as to their comparative fitness.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) This will be examined.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I ask why, if they recognise the policy of appointing women teachers in the Women's College, that policy was not given effect to in this particular case?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have said that the matter would be examined, in answer to part (*b*).

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Clause (*d*) of the question is "whether provision cannot be made for the present Sanskrit Pandit of the College elsewhere."

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That examination will have to be made with a view to see whether the present incumbent cannot be transferred elsewhere in order to make provision for the qualified lady graduate in question.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I ask whether there is not a condition in his appointment that he should give place to a woman graduate whenever one is available?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. All the appointments of men in the Women's College are provisional and these employees will have to give place to women whenever qualified women become available.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether a lady graduate had applied for a Malayalam Tutor's place?

PRESIDENT: In the Women's College?

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. But that does not strictly arise.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise. We are referring only to the Sanskrit Pandit.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether the appointment of this graduate will be considered at least in future?

PRESIDENT: The answer is already there.

Introduction of Spinning in Vernacular Schools.

39. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With respect to the resolution passed in the Council on spinning in schools, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have introduced spinning in schools from the beginning of the current school year;

(*b*) if they have, the names and localities of the schools in which spinning has been introduced;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, whether they propose to introduce it in the course of this school year, and, if so, the names of such schools;

(*d*) whether that resolution did not contemplate the use of a cheap contrivance like the *charka*; and

(*e*) whether the Government have subsequently penalised the use of the *charka*?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to the answer to the question put by Mr. Madhava Variar.*

(*d*) The member is referred to the Legislative Council Proceedings of the 17th January, 1924.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was not the resolution of Mr. Madhava Variar passed in this Council one year ago?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes in 1099.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Then why was it not introduced at the time of the beginning of this year?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The necessary preliminaries had to be arranged. There was no budget provision.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Could not a supplementary demand have been made as in so many other matters?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The preliminaries were not ready.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What were the particular preliminary items that were not ready?

* The question put by Mr. Madhava Variar and the answer thereto are embodied as appendix on page 157, the member being absent at question time.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): First of all we could not get a qualified teacher. The department tried its best to find out whether a qualified teacher was available. They asked Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai, the Textile Expert, whether he could suggest a suitable teacher for spinning. He said he could not get one. All this sort of correspondence had to be carried on.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In part (*c*) of the answer, it is stated that the answer is in the negative. Did not the police take away the *charka* from some of the *Satyagrahis* at Vaikam?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Does my friend mean to suggest that the police did it under the orders of the Government?

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It does not matter much under whose orders it was done.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is stated as answer to part (*c*): "The answer is in the negative." Then does my friend say that the Government ordered the police to take away the *charkas*?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The police officers are officers of Government. I presume that when they did it they did it under orders of Government.

PRESIDENT: There is the question and there is the answer. There is no need to make any presumption.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): He is asking a question and I am answering him.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member can draw his own conclusions from the question and the answers furnished thereto.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I presume that, whenever a Government officer does anything, if it happens to be wrong and against the orders of Government, he will be punished.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The police officers did it under the provisions of the Police Regulation.

Appendix.

Introduction of Spinning in Vernacular Schools.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have introduced spinning as a species of manual training in any of the vernacular schools of the State from the commencement of the school year, and, if so, in how many schools; and

(*b*) whether they will place the scheme with regard to spinning prepared by the Director of Public Instruction on the table?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) No. The Ag. Director of Public Instruction has submitted to the Government his proposals in the matter and the necessary provision for the purpose is being made in the budget for 1100 M. E.

(b) The proposals of the Ag. Director of Public Instruction are laid on the table.

INTRODUCTION OF SPINNING IN VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.

1. (a) That a well-qualified instructor be advertised for and one appointed if suitable persons apply. The salary to be given may be fixed by Government or the applicants may be asked to state on what terms they will come. If the advertisement does not bring a suitable applicant on reasonable terms I would recommend 1 (b) that one of the specially trained teachers in Manual Training from vernacular schools be selected and sent at Government expense to Guntur or Bezwada where spinning is being done on a large scale, to learn improved methods and the various processes connected with the art of spinning for a period of three months. Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai, specialist in weaving and textile works in the Department of Industries, has told me that he cannot undertake to train teachers in spinning as proposed by Mr. Subrahmanya Sastri as he has not the necessary technical knowledge. The instructor appointed (or the teacher selected for training) should, on his return from special training, be deputed to train a batch of 25 manual training teachers in vernacular schools for a period of two months at Trivandrum in the Training College buildings.

Of these 25 teachers, 20 should then be posted one to each of the vernacular schools, to introduce spinning in the 20 vernacular schools, the remaining 5 teachers being reserved for work when any of the 20 regular teachers take leave or cease to be special teachers temporarily or permanently. These *extra* teachers will continue as before special teachers of manual training in vernacular schools.

Thus every year a batch of 25 teachers may be similarly trained in spinning for a period of 2 months until all the teachers of manual training in vernacular schools are trained and spinning is introduced in all the vernacular higher and middle schools for boys and girls, and during the period each year when he is not engaged in training the teachers, the instructor can inspect the teachers of spinning in the schools in which it has been introduced. The teachers trained will then be special teachers of manual training and spinning.

Spinning may first be introduced in class V in vernacular schools and then in class VI and upwards year after year.

Children in classes below class V are too young to be benefited by instruction in spinning and so it need not be introduced in primary schools and primary classes of vernacular high and middle schools In the opinion of Mr. Subrahmanya Sastri, it may be commenced in class IV, but as pupils who do not wish to go for higher vernacular education will leave school after completing their course in class IV, it is not advisable to introduce spinning in class IV.

The question arises whether the subject should be compulsory as the rest of the manual training is at present. This will be an infliction

on the pupils, but to make it optional would make the arrangement of time-tables difficult. It would perhaps be well for a trial to make it compulsory for one period per week leaving the periods allotted to other forms of manual training unaltered.

Even the approximate cost of training 25 teachers in Trivandrum is difficult to arrive at. Mr. Subrahmanya Sastri's estimate is Rs. 898, initial expenditure, of which Rs. 80 would be recurring. This perhaps is too much and I would suggest Rs. 400 non-recurring and Rs. 40 recurring.

In addition to the above, the items of expenditure incidental to the deputation of the teachers to Trivandrum for 2 months will become necessary.

	Rs.
(a) Travelling allowance to 25 teachers for their journey to Trivandrum and back at an average of Rs. 15 each...	375
(b) Deputation allowance for 25 teachers at Rs. 5 per mensem each for 2 months ...	250
Total	625

I also propose that these teachers, when posted as instructors in spinning, should be given an extra allowance of Rs. 2 per mensem each. The cost on this account is Rs. 600.

The estimated cost of introducing spinning in one vernacular school is given by Mr. Green as non-recurring expenditure Rs 50, and recurring Rs. 20, and by Mr. Subrahmanya Sastri as Rs. 230 non-recurring and Rs. 90 recurring. A provision of Rs. 100 non-recurring and Rs. 30 recurring would, I think, be ample. At this rate, the non-recurring expenditure for 20 schools is Rs. 2,000 and the recurring expenditure is Rs. 600.

The pay of an instructor or the cost of sending a teacher for training to Guntur or Bezwada has not been ascertained but a lump sum of Rs. 600 may be allotted.

If the above proposals meet with the approval of Government, it may be possible to appoint an instructor or arrange for the training of one teacher at Guntur or Bezwada and also to train the first batch of 25 teachers at Trivandrum during the school year 1924-25 and to introduce spinning in 20 schools at the beginning of the school year 1925-26. The provision required for 1100 will therefore be as given below.

	Rs.
I. Pay of an instructor for one year or training a teacher at Guntur or Bezwada ...	600
II. Training a batch of 25 teachers at Trivandrum	
(a) Cost of apparatus, etc. ...	440
(b) Travelling and deputation allowance to 25 teachers...	625
(c) Additional personal allowance to 25 teachers at Rs. 2 per mensem for 2 months, Edavam and Mithunam, 1100...	100
III. Cost of introduction of spinning in 20 schools, non-recurring grant ...	2,000
	3,765

It will perhaps be well to provide Rs. 5,000 for the purpose.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET (*Contd.*)

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, I associate myself with the previous speakers in all that they said in regard to the great catastrophe which has devastated several parts of middle and North Travancore. I have got a very faint recollection of the floods that swept over those parts in 1057 M. E.; but it is reported that, in the loss of life and property and the great suffering and distress of the people, that flood was nothing in comparison with the one we witnessed now. From all accounts, the floods have not yet completely subsided and the need for temporary relief is not yet over. The refugees from the affected areas have not yet returned to their homes. Several people are said to have no homes at all to return to. It is gratifying to know that the well-to-do classes in those parts responded adequately to the call of duty and that the Government have also not been sparing in their efforts to relieve distress. But the real work, *viz.*, reconstruction work, is yet to be undertaken; and I congratulate the Government on the readiness with which they have come forward to meet the situation. The success of this work will depend upon the promptness and sympathy with which it is executed and I hope they will not be found wanting.

It has been said that this unforeseen event has upset all our calculations and has thrown the whole scheme of the budget out of gear. Though there is some truth in this, I am not prepared to accept it wholly; nor do I think that this should deter us from carrying out progressive schemes for the development of the country. I am inclined rather to share the optimism of the Financial Secretary. He thinks that "our present resources in cash, short-dated bank deposits and investments in Government securities are quite adequate to meet our present requirements." May I also suggest to the Financial Secretary certain other sources which he might tap for meeting the demands of the present situation? Our Devaswom surplus reserve amounts to Rs. 5 lakhs. The Devaswom expenditure next year is expected to be Rs. 4·74 lakhs less than the revised estimate owing chiefly to the absence of the *Murajapam*. These funds may be utilised for permanent reconstruction work in the shape of loans bearing interest. The expenditure on State Charities amounts to nearly Rs. 4 lakhs.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Devaswom surplus is in our hands even now.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Yes. Instead of using this large amount for feeding able-bodied idlers, at least a portion of it may be utilised for temporary relief of distress or for gratuitous help to the poor to restore their houses destroyed by the floods. If this is done, there will be no need to stop any constructive work of permanent improvement in the condition of the people.

Before proceeding to other topics, let me mention one other matter of urgent importance which should engage the attention of the Government. The Government have promulgated an order so early as 1044 that all public roads are open to all classes of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects. The roads round the Vaikam temple are public roads in the sense of being maintained with public funds and yet these roads are not open to the public generally. The lawful attempts of the prohibited classes to pass along the roads have been prevented by the Government by the use of force. This has led to the adoption of *satyagraha* by those classes. It is the irony of fate that the public funds should be utilised by the Government for doing that, the commission of which, by private persons, was declared to involve the severest displeasure of Government in their order throwing open all roads to the public. Self-sacrificing public-spirited gentlemen have been sent to jail and are rotting there. Mr. Ramaswami Naicker, a selfless public worker of great fame, has been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for four months for no other offence than that of persisting in remaining in this "land of charity" and working for the amelioration of its depressed classes. This is illegal in one sense. (*Vide* Section 181 T. P. C.) The Government do not seem to take any notice of those things. All constitutional means of obtaining redress seem to have been exhausted. Several representations were made to Government about the Vaikam roads before the *satyagraha* campaign began. Since then a deputation appointed by a joint conference of the Nayar Samajam and the S. N. D. P. Yogam waited upon the Dewan and urged on him the necessity for immediate action. Recently, at a very largely attended meeting of the caste Hindus held at Chenganur, resolutions were passed unanimously supporting the claims of non-caste Hindus to use these roads. It is worthy of mention that this meeting was attended by several very orthodox Nambudiries and other Malabar Brahmins. and that not one of them raised his voice against it It is well known that the small coterie of caste-Hindus at Vaikam, who are said to oppose the movement, are mostly attached to the temple and are the creatures of the local officers. The leading inhabitants of Vaikam met recently in the S. N. D. P. Yogam Hall and passed resolutions requesting Government to throw open the roads to all classes. The so-called opposition of the caste-Hindus is merely a pretext and the real reason lies elsewhere. May we hope that the Government will really do something soon to right this wrong, to redeem the damaged reputation of the State ? (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, I propose to confine my remarks to-day to the educational budget. The summary given at page 92 shows that the net expenditure upon Education is expected to be Rs. 31,02,900. This is distributed as follows:—

Rs. 1·74 lakhs for controlling agencies;
Rs. 2·2 lakhs for collegiate education;
Rs. 2·7 lakhs for English school education;
Rs. 14·7 lakhs for vernacular education;
Rs. 70,000 for special school education; and
Rs. 9 lakhs for miscellaneous expenses.

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

The chief item in the miscellaneous expenses is grants-in-aid which accounts for an expenditure of Rs. 8 lakhs. The expenditure on education works out at 15 per cent. of the total revenue. It cannot be denied that this is a fair percentage to be spent on education. This expenditure is bound to increase still more in future, as I shall presently show, if anything like universal mass education, which is the ideal of education in all civilised countries, should be achieved. But, unfortunately, the revenue is far from showing any signs of increase in the same proportion. The revenue of the State reached its high-water mark, *viz.*, Rs. 2 crores in 1097, and it then fell to Rs. 196 lakhs in 1098 and again rose to Rs. 2 crores in 1099. In 1100, a fall to Rs. 198 lakhs is anticipated. How far even this estimate is likely to be reached in 1100, taking into consideration the great calamity which devastated the country in recent times, is yet to be seen. However, we may take it that the maximum revenue that the country is capable of yielding under existing circumstances is Rs. 2 crores. While there are some departments of revenue which are capable of expansion, there are some which show decided signs of diminution in revenue. If the agitation for prohibition of drink succeeds, as it is bound to do in course of time, the receipt from excise, which accounts for Rs. 24 lakhs, is bound to disappear. With the advent of the Cochin Harbour, our customs revenue is likely to be seriously affected. The salt revenue again cannot be considered as a steady and permanent source of revenue. The forests which were thought at one time to be an inexhaustible source of revenue have greatly disillusioned us. As has been rightly remarked by the Dewan of Mysore, the finances of Indian States are bound to be inelastic as their sources of revenue are limited. But we cannot at the same time starve expenditure on nation-building departments like education. The total revenue of the State in 1089 was Rs. 154 lakhs and the net expenditure on education in that year was Rs. 13 lakhs. Thus, during the last ten years, while the revenue of the State has increased only by 28 per cent., the expenditure on education has increased by 146 per cent. This shows that the situation has become very serious and that the time has come for us to consider how best to meet the expanding needs of education without starving the needs of a progressive administration of other departments.

Although we are spending such large amounts of money on education, we find from the distribution of the expenditure that only Rs. 8,84,700 is spent on *real* primary education through departmental schools, for, though Rs. 14 lakhs is spent upon vernacular education, the rest of the amount is consumed by vernacular higher education of boys and girls. Taking 15 per cent. of the population as roughly representing the children of the school-going age, the number of children who ought to attend schools is about 6 lakhs. According to the latest report of the Education Department, we find that the percentage of pupils actually attending all classes of recognised schools was 59·1 and in both

recognised and unrecognised schools put together 63·4 in 1098. But according to the Education Expenditure Committee, this percentage represents only the total number of pupils in attendance in the schools. All of them do not get *complete* lower grade vernacular education. It is found that at present only 45 per cent. of the pupils attending class I go up to class IV. Again, this percentage is not the same in all communities. Different communities represent different stages in education. I give below the percentages of children of school-going age actually attending schools as regards some of the more important communities to indicate the great disparity that exists between different communities in this respect.

Communities.			*Percentage attending schools.*
Nayars	...	...	93
Christians	...	...	93
Ezhavas	...	...	63
Mahomedans	...	...	33
Pulayas	...	...	33
Parayas	...	...	40
Nadars	...	...	43

This unequal distribution of literacy among the masses is disadvantageous to the weaker communities and it is the paramount duty of the State to remove this inequality. Some of the social and economic problems which the Government have been confronted with in recent times has been the result of this inequality in educational advancement. It must be a matter of great concern to any Government that nearly 70 per cent. of the boys of school-going age among communities such as Pulayas and Parayas, who form the backbone of the agricultural classes of the State, should still be not attending any school at all. I need hardly say that the time has come for taking the question into the serious consideration of Government.

It is quite clear that, whatever facilities we may offer to these depressed classes, without an element of compulsion it will not be possible to induce these communities to send all their children to school. In no country—not even the most advanced countries of Europe—has it been possible to achieve universal education without compulsion. Even in India, the principle has been recognised in several States and Provinces; and Travancore can by no effort of reason escape from it. Nearly ten years ago, a Bill for compulsory primary education was introduced into the Legislative Council by a non-official member of the Council, but it was thrown out by the Government by an official majority on two grounds, *viz.*, that the desire for education in the State was so great that there was no necessity for compulsion, and that the financial condition of the State did not permit of compulsory education being introduced into the State. So far as the first is concerned, the figures that I have already given show that, while it may be true in the case of some of the more advanced communities, it is not true in regard to others, especially the depressed classes. Finance is a real difficulty,

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about which I shall speak later on. The Education Expenditure Committee appointed by the Government Order dated the 30th August, 1918, also considered the question and recommended the introduction of compulsory primary education. They say in their report (paragraphs 49 and 50):

"49. *Lower Grade Vernacular Education to be universal.*—A sound elementary education in the vernacular suited to the needs of the people is a matter of the utmost importance. It would dispel their ignorance, widen their outlook on life, qualify them to participate intelligently in the political life of the country and improve their economic efficiency. It is essential therefore that every boy and girl in the country should receive this minimum of education. In several countries, elementary education has been made compulsory on account of its vital importance to the people. In Travancore, when an Elementary Education Bill recognising the principle of compulsion was introduced into the Legislative Council on 15th September, 1914, it was contended by some that the people of the country were eager to acquire education, that there was no necessity for compulsion, and all that was necessary was to increase the number of schools so as to provide accommodation for all the pupils seeking admission. Whether their position is correct or not it is not for us to say; we would only emphasise the absolute necessity and the absolute urgency of imparting universal lower grade vernacular education in the country.

"50. *State responsible.*—That the provision, extension, and improvement of elementary education of the masses is one of the primary duties of the State is a principle that is now generally accepted. In Travancore, the State has always played a leading part in the promotion of mass education, and the results already achieved have been largely due to the Government's active efforts in this direction. But a tremendous task still faces the country if elementary education has to be universally diffused, the present number of children receiving lower grade vernacular education being, as we have already seen, only about 58·6 per cent. of the total school-going population. We think that for a speedy achievement of universal education, it is necessary that the efforts of the State should be put forth in a still larger measure than heretofore."

The Government seem to have taken no notice of this recommendation. I shall now examine the financial aspect of the question. In 1098, the Government spent Rs. 7·73 lakhs upon their departmental primary schools; this represents the recurring expenditure alone. The number of children attending departmental primary schools was only 1,30,550. The number of children of school-going age not attending any school either departmental, aided or unaided, was nearly 3 lakhs. If all these children were compelled to go to school, the recurring expenditure on primary education would be increased by something like Rs. 18 to 20 lakhs; besides this, the permanent expenditure on buildings and equipment which will come to a very large amount will have to be met. The Education Expenditure Committee has made a calculation of the total additional expenditure that will have to be incurred for making education compulsory. According to their calculation, the non-recurring expenditure will only be Rs. 5,20,000 and the recurring expenditure will be Rs. 17,20,000, if private effort is encouraged and made to supplement the efforts of Government in this matter.

The question is how to meet this expenditure. By a judicious conservation of the allotment and by a re-adjustment of work in the elementary schools, it may be possible to manage this without incurring

any great additional expenditure. In this connection, I am glad to note that the attention of the Government has been drawn to the subject. The Government have approved of the shift-system of primary education suggested by Mr. Paranjpye, formerly Minister of Education in Bombay, and have passed proceedings permitting the department to try this scheme tentatively in ten departmental training schools. If this system succeeds, the saving in expenditure, as anticipated by the Government, is bound to be considerable and I see no reason why, if worked with sympathy and tact, the scheme should not succeed. This will obviate the need for additional schools except in places where there are no schools at all. But, in order to insure success, it may be necessary to offer some inducement to teachers by way of increase of salary. If the double shift system succeeds, the existing school accommodation will be sufficient for double the number of children now accommodated in schools and the same establishment will also be sufficient for this number. The Government can therefore afford to increase the salary of their teachers by five or six rupees. In any case, the salary of the primary school teachers is scandalously low and requires early revision. This may perhaps cost the Government Rs. 2 lakhs. But with that additional expenditure, Government will be able to provide primary education for 1,30,000 children more. In regard to hours of attendance, I would suggest an alteration. I do not see why children should not be asked to come to school at 8 o' clock in the morning. In the old village school-master's days, children used to attend school at 6 o' clock in the morning. They can very well be asked to attend the school now at 8 o' clock. Eight to eleven in the morning and two to five in the afternoon will enable the boys and teachers to avoid working in the hottest part of the day from eleven to two; and teachers will have the additional advantage of three hours' leisure in the noon between the periods of work.

Another suggestion that I have to make in this connection is in regard to grants. The Government are now spending Rs. 8,07,300 on grants-in-aid to schools. I am afraid that there is a great deal of waste in the distribution of grants. This must continue so long as the grants-in-aid are given to private institutions and not to bodies properly constituted. My suggestion is that grants-in-aid should be given only to local bodies or councils constituted under a legislative enactment. These councils or local bodies should be entrusted with the following duties:

1. to carry out a survey of educational facilities in the area, *i. e.*, to find out if there are a sufficient number of schools and if they are properly distributed;

2. to re-locate schools according to needs;

3 to start new schools as needs arise and to raise and lower standards;

4. to provide buildings, equipments and staff for these schools;

5. to receive and distribute Government grants in the area;

6. to assume under its control all schools within the area;

7. to declare education compulsory within that area; and

8. to levy any cess that may be required for meeting the additional cost.

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This local body must be compelled to make education compulsory within its area within a particular period, say ten years; and, if they do not do so within the period fixed by the Government, the Government must themselves make education compulsory in that area.

In regard to the first function I would assign to this board, I may say that it is feared that there is considerable overlapping of schools, and an educational survey is urgently called for. While in several localities there are not a sufficient number of schools to provide education for all the school-going children in it, there may be other places where schools are maintained without the full standard strength. By a proper and judicious redistribution, therefore, of the schools, it may be possible to provide education for a larger number of children without additional expenditure. The need for a survey of the educational facilities in each *pakuthi* was recognised by the Government so early as 1085. The Education Expenditure Committee quotes the following from Dr. Mitchell's Report for 1085 M. E :—

"It was pointed out in the last year's report that the average area served by each elementary school was 2·1 square miles, and that this, if schools were uniformly distributed, would more than meet the needs of the State, but that there were numerous anomalies in the distribution of schools. The ratio of area to number of schools is still about the same and the anomalies still continue. The Report also referred to the necessity for adopting some scheme for distribution of schools. The work of the department was unusually heavy during 1085 and it was impossible to take up the question. What I propose to do is that during the current year a beginning should be made with the southern taluks, in some of which there are many schools beyond the actual requirements of the population. The collection of information with regard to these taluks has already begun, but not in any systematic manner. Each taluk will be divided into a certain number of educational areas or units, the needs of each will be investigated with a view to its population, means of communication, etc., and steps will be taken to close any schools which are found to be unnecessary. The importance of such a system cannot be questioned; and although its operations might extend over several years, neither the magnitude of the task nor the consideration of vested interests should prevent its being undertaken."

"Such a survey" observes the Committee was, however, neither attempted nor has it been reported in any subsequent year that the anomalies have ceased to exist. Evidently, they still continue. If so, we would suggest that the investigation contemplated in 1085 should now be carried out and the schools redistributed according to actual local needs. In cases in which a departmental school and a private school exist side by side and one of them is found unnecessary, the private schools being less expensive to Government should be allowed to continue, the departmental school being withdrawn".

This is the opinion of the Education Expenditure Committee. I would have this survey undertaken by the Education Boards which I recommend to Government to appoint.

The creation of these local bodies will have another great advantage inasmuch as it will remove the bane of communal institutions in the State. As there are several communities in the State, the control of private education by any one particular community is looked upon with suspicion by other communities and they naturally desire to start and maintain institutions of their own. This leads to unhappy rivalry and excites bad blood between the communities and places the Education

Department very often in awkward situations. The establishment of a body in which all communities are adequately represented will remove this evil. This will also solve the problem of compulsory mass education. My opinion is that all educational institutions should belong to the nation and not to particular communities and the best way of bringing about this desirable consummation is the handing over of all private schools to local bodies as above constituted. The distribution of the allotment for education between collegiate, secondary and elementary education is also not equitable. A larger proportion of the allotment should be earmarked for elementary education. The expenditure on collegiate education should be reduced by revising the staff which in the opinion of the people is out of all proportion to the needs of the people. If all this is done, my view is that the problem of compulsory primary education will have been brought within the province of practical politics.

The number of students residing in the Caste Hindu Hostel in 1095 was 34. The total expenditure on this institution was Rs. 15,276. The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 6,744. The net expenditure was Rs. 8,532. Roughly each student had to pay Rs 20 for his meals, and on each student Government spent another Rs. 25 in addition per month calculating ten months in the year. The total cost per student was thus Rs. 45. This is extravagant. The new Caste Hindu Hostel is intended to accommodate 106 students. At this rate Government will have to spend nearly Rs. 30,000 for hostel accommodation when the new hostel is opened for 106 students. Further, this building is estimated to cost Rs. 1,71,000, which means that the cost per student for the building would be Rs. 1,603. This cost is incurred by the Government for providing him with a room 12 feet by 10 feet. With this amount you can construct a small building which would accommodate at least 10 students. From an architectural standpoint also the building has been a great disappointment. When the roofing has been put up, it has a very ugly appearance. The windows are disproportionately small and illumination is imperfect.

There were 30 students in the Women's College Hostel in 1097. The expenditure on the Hostel was Rs. 8,456 and the receipts Rs. 2,635. Each student paid at the rate of Rs. 9 only and the additional cost to Government on each student was only Rs. 19. Why there should be such a great difference between the boys' and girls' hostels in the matter of expenditure requires explanation. Can it be that the boys eat twice as much as the girls?

There are three special schools intended for Malayala Brahmins and one for Kshatriyas. The Kshatriya school is situated at Mavelikara and is said to be a boarding school. The expenditure on this school is met by the Government but it is not to be found separately mentioned anywhere in the budget. I hope the Director of Public Instruction will tell us where he has hidden it and why. In regard to the Malayala

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Brahmins, I recognise the necessity for encouraging education among them. But I demur to the view that there should be special schools for any particular class. Secondly, if any special school is needed for Malayala Brahmins the expenditure must be met from the Devaswom or *Oottupura* funds and not from the general revenues of the State.

The Education Code is an old code and it requires revision in several points. There are also other matters like vocational education, college accommodation, etc., with which I should like to deal, but for want of time I shall do so on some other occasion.

The Education Department—English branch especially—has become a close preserve for Brahmins. From the statement, furnished by the Government in answer to an interpellation by Mr. M. N. Pillai, of graduates appointed as acting teachers in the English and Vernacular schools for boys during the last three years, we find that, out of a total of 96 appointments, 49 are held by Brahmins. Again, of the 23 Assistant Inspectors of schools, 11 are Brahmins. Out of 20 headmasters of English schools 16 are Brahmins. In the college, out of 16 Professors and Assistant Professors, 12 are Brahmins; and out of 27 Tutors, 14 are Brahmins. Out of 37 appointments carrying a salary of over Rs. 200 and above, 24 are held by Brahmins. Whatever may have been the case at one time, it cannot *now* be contended with any show of reason that it is due to want of applicants from other communities. It is due to the fact the Brahmins holding the highest appointments in the department exercise their influence in this direction in favour of members of their own community. As the number of graduates turned out by the University is increasing year after year, the problem of unemployment assumes great importance. Almost every member who spoke on the budget referred to the fact that the system of recruitment to the service has not given satisfaction to the public. This matter has been the subject of agitation for the last 35 years, and yet there has been no change in the attitude of the Government. It has been a cry in the wilderness. Not only is this communal bias shown in the matter of appointments; if the implications contained in Mr. Kumara Pillai's speech are well-founded, it is being extended to punishments and promotions. Corrupt officers are said to be shielded and differential treatment awarded to offenders of different communities. The Chief Engineer is, from all accounts, the greatest offender in this respect; and I hope he will render a full explanation of the charges made against him. If early action is not taken in the matter, I take this opportunity to warn the Government that the means available to similarly-situated communities of non-Brahmins in Madras are available to us here also; and we will not fail to take advantage of them if necessary. I hope the Government will not drive us to that and create a problem, the solution of which will be fraught with the greatest difficulties to the Government. From the numerical standpoint, the Brahmins are entitled only to 1·25 per cent. of the appointments while they now hold in some departments over 70 per cent.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolam* cum *Peermade*) : Sir, to begin with, I have to thank the Government for the great sympathy shown to the people of North and Central Travancore, who are suffering from the effects of unprecedented floods. The flood was indeed the result of abnormal rains in the land. But in the case of the ravages caused on the lands on either side of the Periyar, I have to say that the situation was greatly aggravated by the opening, *without any previous notice*, of the sluices in the Periyar Dam. As the House may be aware, the Periyar Lake has an area of about 23 square miles with a maximum depth of about 150 feet. The volume of water in the reservoir is several times greater than the volume of water in the Vembanad Lake and the whole of that water is more than 2,000 feet above the sea level. If proper care is not taken of this vast quantity of stored-up energy, it will be the cause of the annihilation of large areas in Travancore and Cochin. Sluices are, however, provided to see that the water-level does not go beyond a certain point. When, owing to heavy rains in the catchment area, it is found that the water tends to go above the maximum level allowed, the sluices are opened and water let through. This year the sluices appear to have been opened without any previous notice. All reports from the affected area confirm this view. Twenty cart-loads of rice and four cart-loads of machinery belonging to Mr. P. John of Kottayam, which were halting on the road to Karimkulam Estate, were suddenly caught in the torrents and washed away! The reports from the Periyar Estate also show that the rise of water was sudden and loss of life and property was enormous. I would, therefore, request you, Sir, to negotiate with the Madras Government that timely notice of the opening of the sluices may be given in future. I may take this opportunity to sound a note of warning that a negligent handling of this stupendous store of energy may at any moment cause a greater calamity to the inhabitants living in the lower reaches of the Periyar river.

With respect to the munificent help which the Government are affording to the people afflicted by the floods, what I have to suggest is that care should be taken to see that the help that the Government give actually reaches the really deserving. I suggest that the best method of relieving the distress would be to entrust the work to the Land Revenue Commissioner, who will allot the necessary funds to the Peishkars according to the necessities of each division. The Division Peishkar may be asked to disburse the funds on the recommendations of a committee to be formed in each affected taluk consisting of the Tahsildar and three or four non-official gentlemen from each of the affected *pakuthies*.

I understand that there is a suggestion to entrust the funds to Co-operative Credit Societies in all the affected areas. Some of the so-called societies exist only in name and are doing very little work. Moreover, the function of a Co-operative Credit Society is not to engage itself in works of charity for outside people. I have no faith that these societies, which are only in their infancy in our country, are going suddenly to rise to the occasion and satisfactorily give relief to the suffering.

[Mr. K. Dominic Thomman.]

Then, coming to the budget, I note therein an item of Rs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of revenue proposed to be realised by the sale of Government lands. The major portion of this income, I believe, is expected from the sale of lands in the High Ranges. As we have got only a very limited extent of cultivable land still remaining to be sold, I would suggest that the further sale of lands to foreigners be absolutely prohibited. Till recently, there was a rule prohibiting foreigners from acquiring lands in Travancore without the special sanction of the Government. For some reason or other, that rule is done away with. I would request you, Sir, to revive that wholesome rule in the interests of the future generations of Travancore.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass, without making a remark on the appointments in the State services. In various forms, this subject has been taking up the time of this Council from the very beginning. Though, at one time, the claims for equal treatment to all subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja in the distribution of appointments in the land was ridiculed even in this House by some members belonging to the privileged classes, it seems now to be fairly admitted that the State service is not the prerogative or birthright of one particular caste or class and that the claim is not for any favour but for bare justice. It is, however, only the *principle* that is admitted; the *practice* continues to be what it was before. As several of the interpellations on the subject remain unanswered, I am not in possession of facts and figures in all cases. From the answers already given and from the actual knowledge of several departments, I can say that, if we include the subordinate services also, 95 per cent. of the appointments in the State will be found to be held by caste Hindus alone. I need not say, Sir, that this is a matter that deserves serious consideration by the Government. Some people seem to support this inequality and defend it on grounds of efficiency. If we look closely into the plea of the so-called efficiency, it will be found that it has become the practice in Travancore that heads of departments and other officers belonging to particular castes find efficiency only in candidates belonging to their own particular castes or communities.

We now-a-days hear so much of corruption in the land and the earnest prayer is expressed by papers and by members in the Popular Assembly and in this House to investigate into the alleged cases of corruption with a view to purify the departments. One method suggested yesterday in this House was that, whenever a newspaper imputed corruption to an officer, the officer should be asked to prosecute the paper so that a court of law might declare the honesty of the officer or the correctness of the statement in the paper. I am not going now to discuss the propriety of this suggestion. I may point out, however, that, to find out corruption, there is no necessity for pursuing such a round-about course. Corruption in a most flagrant and tangible form is disclosed in the answers to some of the questions in this House itself. We are told in some of the answers that the appointments made by some of the officers

are practically entirely from their own castes or communities. This shows that such officers are partial to their own caste-men; that they are not conscientious in the matter of appointments; in other words, that they are corrupt in the matter of appointments. It is only a legitimate inference that one who is corrupt in one respect will be corrupt in others as well. These officers are bound in conscience to discharge their functions impartially and without making any distinction between caste and creed. Their action shows that they are not fit to be entrusted with this sacred trust. I would suggest to the Government to begin here, at the extermination of corruption, and make an example of those men who grow fat on the sweat of the people of the land but care only for their own kith and kin. If the Government show that they are firm in stamping out corruption of this sort, I feel no doubt that there would be no room for most of the present complaints.

My friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai does not seem to see eye to eye with the unprivileged classes in this matter. What Fr. Vettikkapalli said yesterday was that, even after the Revenue—Devaswom separation, the major portion of appointments in the Revenue Department was given to caste Hindus, and that the promotion of officers from the Devaswom Department blocked the chances of the unprivileged classes in the Revenue Department. I may, however, observe that I do not see any objection, on principle, even in keeping out the privileged classes until the others have come to a level with them, in the matter of appointments in the Revenue Department. The caste Hindus were allowed to appropriate what was justly due to other communities. All that is now claimed is equalisation as far as possible. This principle has been accepted in Madras and in Mysore. I do not see why the same principle will not suit Travancore.

Another matter on which I wish to make a remark is the policy of promotions of officers in the Devaswom Department to the Revenue Department. It is an injustice to the non-caste Hindus and to non-Hindus that a very large amount from the general revenue is utilised to pay caste Hindus in the Devaswom Department, to which the former have no entrance. To promote officers from the Devaswom to the Revenue Department is aggravating the injustice. In the face of such promotions, non-caste Hindus and non-Hindus can never aspire to get their just share of the appointments. I do not see any justifiable reason why interchange of officers between Revenue and Devaswom Departments should be allowed. I would therefore suggest that such promotions and interchanges be stopped.

I may inform the Government that the inequality shown in this matter of appointments is causing great heart-burning and unrest in the land. The attempt of all modern Governments is to take the people into their confidence. I believe this Council itself is established to attain that object. A Government that has this object in view should remove all causes for grave discontent. I can assure the Government that nothing creates so much discontent in the land at the present time as inequality shown in the matter of appointments and

[Mr. K. Dominic Tomman.]

that the Government cannot be too solicitious in this respect. I would suggest to the Government to take immediate steps to remedy this grievance. I would also suggest that a quarterly castewar statement of all new appointments in the State be published.

I have now to offer a remark on a matter that is causing great hardship and worry to sveral in my taluk and in some of the neighbouring taluks, namely, the revision now made of the revenue assessment fixed at the last Settlement. The *Cherikal* Settlement was completed only in 1085. It is only 14 years since that time. In Section 31 of the Settlement Proclamation, His Highness the Maha Raja was pleased to declare that the settlement was permanent for 30 years. The *cherikal* lands in those taluks were assessed to land revenue according to the *Cherikal* Settlement rules, and the settlement was completed and confirmed by the Government. It happened, however, in several cases that lands which should have been treated as *jenmom* and other favourably assessed tenures were treated as *pandaravaka*, and the full assessment as fixed at the settlement was levied instead of levying a portion of it. Likewise it happened also that lands belonging to private persons under some favourable tenure or other were treated as Sirkar lands and included under *Tanathuchitta*. In all these cases, however, the proper assessment according to rules then in force was fixed. Many of those persons, who were aggrieved by the decisions of the settlement authorities in treating their lands as of a different tenure or as belonging to the Sirkar, filed civil suits against the Sirkar. In the majority of cases the suits were allowed declaring the rights of the land-holders. The original *chittas* and *pattas* had therefore to be corrected in the light of the civil court decrees. In realising the tax, the proper thing to be done was to adopt the assessment made at the settlement and levy only a proportion under the rules. What is now done in several instances is that a new and higher assessment is arbitrarily fixed and a portion of that is realised. I may mention an actual case. A person claimed a block of land as his *jenmom*; a portion of it only was declared as *jenmom* by the settlement authorities and the remaining portion was treated as *pandaravaka*. The full assessment for the *pandaravaka* portion was fixed at three fanams per acre as it was done in the case of all other lands in the neighbourhood and in accordance with the *Cherikal* Settlement rules then in force. His contention however was that the whole of his land was of *jenmom* tenure and he filed a civil suit and the civil court decreed that the whole land was of *jenmom* tenure. The revenue authorities ought to have then realised only half the assessment originally fixed at the settlement. The Peishkar, however, aribitrarily fixed the assessment at seven fanams per acre and ordered the party to pay half of it as the land was declared by the civil court to be of *jenmom* tenure. The original tax was only three fanams. Now, after having got a decree of the civil court that the land is of *jenmom* tenure and is entitled to be favourably taxed, the land-holder

is ordered to pay three and a half fanams. This is against the declaration in the Royal Proclamation and against the spirit of the *Karampatippu* Rules. There is no question here that the assessment fixed at the settlement was wrong or was less than what ought to have been fixed. The regulations and all the rules bearing on the subject are against the action of the Government. The action on the part of the Government may again drive the people to the civil court for redress, which will cause heavy loss to the parties concerned and to the Government. I would therefore suggest that the matter may be throughly investigated so that the worry and hardship caused to a very large number of people may be avoided.

MR. TRIVIKRAMAR VASUDEVAR (*Jennies*) : രാജ്യത്തുള്ള വരവു ചിലവുകളെ പററി ചിന്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിനടിസ്ഥാനമായ ചില കാൎയ്യങ്ങളെക്കൂടി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഗവൺമെൻറു ജനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു കരം പിരിച്ചാൽ അതൊക്കെ പ്രജാക്ഷേമത്തിനായി തന്നെ ചിലവഴിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള തത്വം പരിഷ്കൃത ഗവൺമെൻറുകൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണ്. കൊല്ലത്തിൽ എത്ര സംഖ്യ ചിലവിനു വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്ന് ആദ്യമായി കണക്കാക്കണം. ജനങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ പുതിയ കരങ്ങൾ ചുമത്താതെ ഇപ്പോൾ ചുമത്തീട്ടുള്ള കരത്തെ തന്നെ കുറവു ചെയ്ക എന്നുള്ളതാണ് പരിഷ്കൃതഗവൺമെൻറുകൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നയം. ഒരാണ്ടത്തെ ചിലവിൽ അധികം വരവുണ്ടെന്നു കണ്ടാൽ പുതിയതായി ചുമത്തിയ കരത്തെ കുറവു ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് ഏതൊരു ഗവൺമെൻറും മടി കാണിക്കയില്ല. അനാവശ്യമായി പ്രജകളുടെ പണം ഖജനാവിൽ കെട്ടി വയ്ക്കുന്ന നയം ഒരു ഗവൺമെൻറും സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാകുന്നു. യുദ്ധകാലത്ത് ഓരോ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ പലവിധം കരം പ്രജകളുടെ മേൽ ചുമത്തപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. യുദ്ധം അവസാനിച്ചതിനു ശേഷം ചിലവു ചുരുങ്ങി എന്നു കാണുമ്പോൾ പലകരങ്ങളും കുറച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഏതെങ്കിലും കാൎയ്യവശാൽ ഈ നാട്ടിലുള്ള കരങ്ങൾ കുറച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ പറയാൻ ഒന്നും കാണുന്നില്ല. സൎക്കാർ പണാപഹരണം ചെയ്യുന്നവൎക്കു ശരിയായി ശിക്ഷ കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലെന്ന് എൻെറ സ്നേഹിതനായ മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതു പരമാൎത്ഥമാണെന്ന് എനിക്കും അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ട്. ഇവിടെത്തെ മുനിസിപ്പാലിററിയിൽ നിന്നു പണച്ചുമതലയുള്ള പലരും പണം അപഹരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായും അവരെ ശരിയായി ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നുമാണ് അറിയുന്നത്. അഞ്ചൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നു പണാപഹരണം മുറയ്ക്കു നടന്നു വരുന്നുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ

[Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar.]

യുള്ളവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കയോ സസ്പെണ്ട് ചെയ്കയോ പണം കെട്ടിവപ്പിക്കയോ ചെയ്യാതെ കൂടുതൽചുമതലയുള്ള ജോലിയിൽതന്നെവച്ചു ശമ്പളത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. പണാപഹരണം ചെയ്ത ഒരാളിനെ ഇവിടത്തെ ആഫീസിൽ ചുമതല ജോലിയിൽ വച്ച് ശമ്പളത്തിൽനിന്ന് അപഹരിച്ചപണം ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നു. ആയുർവ്വേദവകുപ്പിൽനിന്നു സർക്കാർ പണം അനവധി അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകൾക്കായി ചിലവാകുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തേതിലും കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമായ ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനെ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ആളുകൾക്കായി ഉദ്യോഗം സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന നയം വിട്ടു പല ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കും ക്ലിപ്തമായ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചു കൂടുതലുള്ള ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള പണം പലിശകൂടാതെ കൊടുക്കണം പല ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കും മോട്ടാർ വാങ്ങുന്നതിനുള്ള പണം പലിശകൂടാതെ കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ. കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ നേരിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള നഷ്ടത്തിനു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശരിയായ ഒരു ചുമതലയാണ്. കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ആവശ്യമുള്ള വിത്തും കന്നുകാലി മുതലായതും വാങ്ങാനുള്ള പണം പലിശകൂടാതെ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

രാജ്യത്തിലെ ചിലവു ചുരുക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാകയാൽ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തെ കുറച്ചുകാലത്തേയ്ക്കെങ്കിലും ഒന്നു കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ് എന്ന് എനിക്കഭിപ്രായമുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ വൈക്കത്തു നടക്കുന്ന സത്യാഗ്രഹം സംബന്ധിച്ചു കുറെപണം ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും ചിലവാക്കിട്ടുണ്ട്. ധർമ്മസംരക്ഷണാർത്ഥം ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന് ഇതിലധികവും ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരും. ഈ സത്യാഗ്രഹത്തെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളും വൈക്കത്തെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളും എതിർക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ആ വകയ്ക്കുള്ള ചി.വ് അത്യാവശ്യച്ചിലവായിത്തന്നെ വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഈ കാൺഗ്രസ് സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യമില്ല. കാൺഗ്രസ്സാണ് സത്യാഗ്രഹം നടത്തുന്നതെങ്കിൽ അവരിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ അതു സംബന്ധമായി ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനുണ്ടാകുന്ന ചിലവിനെ ഈടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഒരു ടൌണിലേക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള പണം ആ ടൌൺ നിവാസികളിൽ നിന്നും ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നതുപോലെ ഈ വകയ്ക്കു ചിലവാകുന്നപണം സത്യാഗ്രഹികളിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ ഈടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

എന്നാൽ ഈ സത്യാഗ്രഹം ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ എതിക്കുന്നതിനു ജനങ്ങളെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കയാകുന്നു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. സത്യാഗ്രഹികൾ ഗവർമ്മെൻറാജ്ഞയെ സ്വീകരിക്കാതെ പ്രസംഗരൂപേണ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനേയും പൌരാവലിയേയും ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നു. മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധിയുടെ തത്വമല്ല ഈ കൂട്ടർ സ്വീകരിച്ചു കാണുന്നതു്. അക്രമരാഹിത്യമാണു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ മതം. അവർ അക്രമംതന്നെയാണു് ചെയ്തുവരുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോൾ വൈക്കത്തു പോലീസുകാർ സത്യാഗ്രഹികളെ ഭയന്നാണു് കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നത്. ഈ സത്യാഗ്രഹികളുടെ അടുത്തുകൂടി ഒരു പട്ടിയോ പൂച്ചയോ പോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതെല്ലാം പോലീസുകാർ സത്യാഗ്രഹികളെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കാനായിട്ടയച്ചിരിക്കയാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു നടക്കും. അതിനൊക്കെ പോലീസുകാർ സമാധാനം പറയണം. ഈ വഴിക്കാണു് പോലീസുകാർ ഭയന്നിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത്: പത്രപ്രസ്താവനങ്ങളിൽ ചിലതിനെപ്പററി ഞാൻതന്നെ സ്ഥലത്തുചെന്നു് അന്വേഷണം നടത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഒരു വർഗ്ഗക്കാരിൽ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടിവരുന്നപണം പൊതുമുതലിൽനിന്നും വ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിവരുന്നതല്ല.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*) : Sir, in regard to the general forecast of the budget for the year 1100 made by the Financial Secretary, I have very little to say except that I fully share the sympathy which has actuated the Government in affording prompt relief to the people of Travancore afflicted by the recent terrible flood catastrophe. Neither the beneficent Government nor the people have stinted aught to alleviate the suffering caused by this unexpected ravage of nature. The highest meed of praise is due to the Government for their sympathy, alertness and promptitude in this matter.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Louder please. He cannot be heard absolutely.

PRESIDENT : His voice is like that. What can we do for that ?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I am wrong with my voice. I hope the House will excuse me for that.

Necessarily the outlook of the Financial Secretary—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : His voice is now worse than before.

PRESIDENT : May I request some other member to read out your speech for you, Mr. Lakshmana Pillai ?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*) : My manuscripts cannot be read easily by another member. (*Laughter.*) I shall attempt to read louder.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): His previous voice was better than his *falsetto*.

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Necessarily the outlook of the Financial Secretary for the coming year is gloomy, as it is uncertain in what ways our revenues will go down and in what directions and to what extent new expenditure would have to be incurred as a sequence of the stupendous catastrophe. I would, therefore, not be wise at this stage in venturing my remarks on the provisions made under the main heads of revenue and expenditure.

I think, however, that it is my duty to offer some suggestions on one or two minor matters for which either no provision or only scanty provision has been made by the Government. I believe I would not be wrong in summing up all these matters under the head of fine arts, especially music and painting. Under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments, Government have included the Photograph Department, Public Library, Archæological Department and Preservation of Oriental Literature. Some of the fine arts, especially poetry and drama, have been represented under these heads. I beg to enquire what provision has been made for the departments of painting and music which are equally important branches of the fine arts. It may be asked, what practical utility do these fine arts serve in the life of the people? My answer is, there is not less utility in painting and music than in poetry, drama and history. The fine arts serve to fill the mind with beautiful emotions which are the generators of beautiful and good actions. More sympathy will be created among the people. Herbert Spencer says that, for the creation and promotion of sympathy between man and man, there is no more effective agency than music which he calls "the finest of the fine arts". Ruskin says:

> "You do not perhaps know that music was, among the Greeks, quite the first means of education and that it was so connected with their system of ethics and of intellectual training, that the God of music is with them also the God of righteousness, the God who purges and avenges iniquity and contends with their Satan, as represented under the form of Python, the corrupter. And the Greeks were incontrovertibly right in this. Music is the nearest at hand, the most orderly, the most delicate, and the most perfect of all bodily pleasures; It is also only the one which is equally helpful to all the ages of man, helpful from the nurse's song to her infant to the music unheard of by others, which often, if not most frequently, haunts the death-bed of pure and innocent spirits; and the action of the deceiving or devilish power is in nothing shown quite so distinctly among us at this day—not even in our commercial dishonesties nor in our social cruelties—as in its having been able to take away music as an instrument of education altogether."

Dr. Harvey, the late revered Professor and Principal of the Arts College here, under whose beneficent influence I was fortunate enough to be placed, said that music was given gratis in some of the country parts in Scotland with the express object of creating sympathy and reducing crime, and that this led to some real reduction under the head of criminal expenditure. We need not be surprised if, on this account, some savings were actually made out of the pay of the Jail Superintendent and made over to the music master.

It may be asked what scope there is in Travancore for the development of these arts. Every schoolboy knows that there are hundreds and thousands of boys and girls in Travancore who evince genuine taste in music and painting which, under proper nurture and favourable opportunities, would bloom and prosper and shed additional lustre on our country. Nature has richly endowed this ancient State with all the beauties that are available in her store, seeking only the appreciative eye and the tuneful ear of her people. Travancore, therefore, is best suited to be the nursery of all the fine arts. My question is, is it not the duty of the Government to give an adequate impetus to the growth of these arts in which aptitude is found in such abundance among the people of Travancore? There is no painting school here to speak of, although an apology for it is kept up by the artist Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi. There is no music school even in the Capital, and the one started by Mr. J. Kuttan Pillai died a premature death for want of encouragement. Though we expect music tutors in schools to be well equipped in the art, we are aware that there is no training school whatever to which they may repair for their training. Mr. A. C. Benson says:

"Politics are after all nothing but the making of arrangements for men to live at peace with each other. People get in the way of talking of the State as if it were something above and separate from the nation. But the State is, after all, the nation, and the Parliament is but the nation making its own rules and arrangements."

He asks:

"What then is the ideal life for the citizen of the community? He ought to be made healthy, neighbourly, good-humoured, upright, self-restrained, orderly. He ought to have a definite piece of work to do, in order to support himself and those members of the community (the incapacitated) who cannot do any work. But toil ought never to fall into mere and hopeless drudgery. Every one ought to have leisure and to be able to use it. Work ought to be enjoyable and enjoyed, and besides that, there ought to be an enjoyment of beautiful and leisurely things. That is a simple programme, and yet how far are we from realising it!"

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the Women's College?

PRESIDENT: He is talking about music and painting.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether he is aware of the existence of the music class in the Women's College.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I am talking of music tuition: Further on Mr. A. C. Benson says:—

"The real life which we must keep in view is the life which insists on work as a duty and yet allows a real margin of leisure; the cultivation of a taste for all beautiful and interesting things."

It is among these beautiful and interesting things in the life of a nation that we have to class such fine arts as painting and music, and I submit that they are worthy enough to be catalogued among our Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments which now show only a blank in this respect.

The only attention that seems to have been paid by the Government to music is the provision that they have made for music tutors or Bhagavatars in Vernacular Schools for Girls. Why should not

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

music instruction be given to the boys also, especially to those who evince special aptitude in that direction? An allotment of Rs. 30,000 is made for 196 Bhagavatars at Rs. 14. On my interpellation as to why the Bhagavatars are paid only Rs. 14, whereas Drawing Masters are paid Rs. 18, I have not been able to elicit a satisfactory answer except that the Government think the arrangement right. (*Laughter.*) Bhagavatars have now been divided into two grades, and the music examination is being yearly conducted on this basis. But unfortunately both grades are clubbed together in the matter of pay. This is, to say the least, anomalous. The first grade musicians should be paid somewhat higher, and if the sum of Rs. 30,000 allotted is to prove useful in any way, the necessary additional expenditure should not be grudged in view of the importance of this art. This is not the place to propose what increase should be given to the first grade Bhagavatars. That is a matter to be left to the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction.

I humbly and strongly urge upon the Government the necessity for making adequate provision for opening a Music Training School as well as a Painting School at the Capital of this model State, without which it is impossible to expect tutors to be proficient in these arts.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, this is evidently the last budget meeting of this Council. We are to bid good-bye to the eleventh century of the Malabar era and soon enter into a new epoch. Nature herself seems to have been dissatisfied with our old ways of doing things in the past and gave us an indication of the need of a thorough change and cleansing by the recent flood calamity so touchingly referred to in the speech of the Financial Secretary. Thank God that the clouds of distress and despair are slowly clearing up. The smiling re-appearance of the sun during the last few days is really consoling.

As a member of one of the most afficted areas in North Travancore, I must express the appreciation of the people for the prompt measures taken by the local officers in conjunction with the public to render all manner of help to the distressed population. We feel very grateful for the ready and liberal measures taken by the Government for affording gratuitous relief in distressed areas. I am very happy to learn about the statement made by the Dewan that the Government propose to render all the help they can to relieve distress and to facilitate the task of reconstruction and also for the enhanced liberal provision for agricultural loans and P. W. D. works for the relief of distress caused by the recent flood. But I have to submit a word of warning in this connection. It is a matter of common knowledge and a subject of constant complaint that the agricultural loans do not reach those who are really in need of it, and the expense of getting it is prohibitive. Even if one gets it, it will be long after the necessity has been met in other ways.

It is also a well-known fact that the P. W. D. repairs are seldom done in proper seasons. It is perhaps due to the fault of the system. The subordinate executive staff get the necessary sanction for funds only at the wrong end of the year, or it may be that these subordinates are not properly dealt with for their slackness. The so-called repairs are only meant to be washed by the first rains soon after the completion. Some reliable executive officers should be selected and they should be given larger powers for the immediate execution of the relief works in consultation with the local public. Whatever the sort of special agency that is contemplated by authorities, it must necessarily be above suspicion. As the reliefs are immediately required, a competent reliable officer, who has some special aptitude for prompt action, would be preferable to an ever-quarrelling public body. Immediate relief in the supply of materials for the construction of small houses, purchase of seeds, and sanitary and other precautionary measures in regard to the outbreak of cholera, fever and dysentery, should be immediately undertaken and carried out.

Coming to the other portions of the Financial Secretary's speech, I am sorry to say that they are rather disappointing. Mr. George used to give the House very interesting observations and instructive remarks and able explanations for the financial situations which we have to meet every year. They are wanting to a large extent in this year's speech. But I am very glad to observe that our receipts under Railways are somewhat encouraging and I should think that this should be another reason for investing more money on remunerative works like the extension of railways, irrigation projects, etc.

However, our financial outlook is not satisfactory. For several years, we have been taxing the people from every side. No man or woman is spared. The boatmen, the fishermen, the poor women who carry their baskets of brinjals to the nearest market, and even the travellers are being taxed now against the traditions of our State. The result is an ever-increasing revenue to the State. But we have been spending all these for the so-called 'ever growing progressive administration' without investing any appreciable portion of our revenue on proper remunerative works.

Though retrenchment has been the burden of the song from this side of the House, little has been done in that direction and more channels of expenditure of questionable utility have been opened even to counteract the effect of the little retrenchments we have been able to make. To save the situation, some new bold policy has to be adopted.

Coming to the expenditure side, I am glad to observe that the Government and the Chief Engineer have begun to feel the necessity of diverting more funds for communications in North Travancore, which used to get only a step-motherly treatment before the advent of the present Dewan. Something or other seems to have been set apart for some of the urgent needs of the distant north. But it has to be remembered that providing a small fund for any work in the budget is one thing and getting the work done is

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quite a different thing in the annals of our P. W. D. I may be permitted to observe one thing in this connection, *viz.*, that it would be far more advisable to provide for a lesser number of works and have them completed in the very same year if it is practicable, than to follow the proverbial methods of the barbers at Ramesvaram. (*Laughter.*) Doing things by halves always leads to leakage and wastage.

I am personally also very happy to see at least a few thousands of rupees being provided for the survey of the Kottarakara-Ernakulam Railway. Ever since I was returned by my constituency for the last Council and for this Council, almost the first question I use to get from my voters on my return after every sitting of the Council has been: "What have you done for the extension of the Kottarakara-Alwaye Railway?" The public opinion all along in North Travancore has been that the construction of the Tinnevelly-Quilon line was a mistake and it could be corrected partially at least by constructing a connecting line between the Shoranur-Cochin Railway and the Quilon-Shencotta line. But I hope that earnest and prompt attention will be taken by the Government to carry out the scheme.

The growing expenditure of our Education Department is really a hard financial problem which requires the careful consideration of this House. The only solution I can find is the delegation of a considerable portion of the work to private responsible bodies with proper departmental supervision and control. More schools may be handed over to such bodies as the Nayar *Samajam, Karayogams, Uranma* authorities. *Samudhamantams,* church authorities and such other bodies as are prepared to show sufficient solvency and security for the proper continuance of the institutions entrusted to them. If private agencies are properly encouraged by the department and treated with greater sympathy and fellow-feeling, I am sure that the evil effects of the antipathy generated by Dr. Mitchell and his Code against private schools will soon be swept away and that the Government would be relieved of a good portion of the burden put on their head by Dr. Mitchell.

Sir, one word about the Revenue Department before I finish my observations. I was one of those who took some part in the civic rights movement and I had also the privilege of serving on the Devaswom Separation Committee. One main object of the separation was to throw open the Revenue Department to all classes of His Highness' subjects. To achieve this all-desirable reform, which was overdue, the separation of the Devaswoms was resorted to at an enormous expenditure of more than one lakh of rupees required for a separate establishment. But what is the effect? Things go on as before; the department still remains practically closed to nearly 30 lakhs of His Highness' subjects, the net result being only an additional expenditure to the State. It is very much to be regretted that, even after the appointment of an Englishman, who is known for fair-play, at the head of the Revenue Department, things are no better. He seems to be at his wit's end on account of a clever arrangement made by his predecessor in the grade scale

and promotion of the staff of the Devaswom Department and in the inter-connected Revenue Department though separated in theory. So, unless the mentality of the Government is changed, there is no use in the separation which is now effected. The numerous interpellations and the replies and the returns called for show that the Government are not very serious about the matter. This is to be very much regretted, especially in view of the large expenditure we have incurred for the so-called separation.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, I was one of those who, when the Council met on the 10th Karkadakam, said that the discussion of a budget prepared without taking into account the effects of the catastrophic floods would not be of much use. I am glad that the Financial Secretary's speech prepared since that time has taken as reasonable a view of the altered situation as was humanly possible within the short time that has elapsed, especially in view of the fact that, owing to the interruption of communications, information from the flooded areas has been very scanty. On the 10th, the Dewan said that the Government would put their hands deep into their pockets to alleviate the distress caused by the floods and that the Government would not mind any financial dislocation that might be occasioned thereby. The same assurance was given by the Dewan when he presided at the public meeting held in this hall the other day to concert measures for taking relief to the affected areas. The Financial Secretary's speech contains the same assurance in stronger terms. He says:

"The Government consider it their primary duty to render all the help they can to relieve distress and to facilitate the task of reconstruction."

I congratulate the Government on the good-will which it has so far shown. Sir, I fully agree with the Financial Secretary when he says that the single-handed efforts of the Government alone cannot fully or adequately meet the grave situation caused by the floods. The general public must certainly co-operate. But I cannot agree with him when he says that *a great deal* depends on the generosity of the general public. The general public of the affected areas have already done even much more than their means would allow. They are themselves reduced to poverty. The general public of the un-affected areas alone can be expected to do something. But even they cannot do *a great deal*. So, if the Government expect *a great deal* from the general public, the Government would be miscalculating the weight of their burden; the Government would be shoving their responsibilities to other shoulders.

Sir, the distress in the affected areas is very great. The paddy cultivation of all the affected areas is completely destroyed. I am an eye-witness to the state of affairs in Kuttanad and Shertallai. I remained about four days in Shertallai and visited most places. All our paddy fields are under water even now, and the paddy cultivation of the whole taluk is completely washed away. The northern half of the taluk and some low-lying portion of the southern half were submerged for about

[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

nine days, and about ten thousand houses had to be deserted, there being from four to eight feet of water in them. Some of these houses are completely destroyed. The occupants of these houses had to recede to the interior and assemble under the roofs of public buildings or sheds. Although the people had to flock to elevated places for rescuing their lives from the second of this month onwards, the local Tahsildar opened his eyes only on the 11th and the starvation would have been much greater but for the generosity of some of the well-to-do people in the neighbourhood. In localities where there were no well-to-do people, the suffering of the afflicted was very great. The northern half of the taluk, where relief was most needed, was practically neglected till the acting Tahsildar took charge on the 14th afternoon. This gives the reason why the Press Note placed in our hands says, so far as Shertallai is concerned: "No details are available about the economic disturbances caused or the measures adopted for their relief." It is the above fact that would explain the appearance of that short sentence in the Press Note. If the paddy cultivation of the taluk has been destroyed, the main industry of the poor is taken out of their hands. The husks from which coir-yarn is made and which form the industry of the poor have been carried away by the floods. The cocoanut trees of the flooded areas are deeply hit. The fronds and tender cocoanuts are beginning to fall off. For one year at least the cocoanut trees of the flooded areas will not be able to yield enough even for their up-keep. In Shertallai the situation is very grave and it will continue to be so. A large percentage of the population are without work. The Kanni crops have failed, and the cocoanut husks have been washed away. The rich people are not able to give work to the poor or to feed them. The merchants are raising the prices of food-stuffs and exploiting the new situation. The only hope of the people is the carrying out by the Government of the assurances which they have held out. Taxes on paddy fields will have to be remitted entirely. Taxes on cocoanut gardens of the affected areas will have to be remitted at the least in part. Agricultural loans will have to be given on a larger scale and on better lines. I would urge the necessity of taking up immediately such works as the Alleppey-Shertallai canal and commencing work at other points besides the two ends. If the roads to Arur and Arukutti and the canal from Muttattu *Kayal* are undertaken, the poor in different places may be able to earn something. Public Works as famine works must be undertaken in different parts of the taluk not only of Shertallai but in other affected areas. I am afraid that our present Chief Engineer, in spite of the fat salary that he draws, is the most unfit man for a crisis like this. In my opinion, Sir, he is very slow. He takes time to move.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you are justified in attacking a member of this House like that. You should not make a personal charge against the member.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I am not making any personal charge, but I am speaking only about the Chief Engineer. As

the head of the Public Works Department, I cannot but say to this House that he is a complete failure. Last year he said that there was a provision for the bridge at Kattachira in Shertallai. But where is the bridge now? Nothing has been done towards its construction. Certainly the floods might not have washed away the bridge. He is of very great service to the Financial Secretary for preparing a surplus budget, because, Mr. George knows him well and he can make his calculations on the surrenders from the Public Works Department. So my opinion is that some capable executive officer should be put at the head of affairs to manage the famine relief work and other public works.

Then, something must be done to prevent the raising of the prices of food-stuffs by merchants. To meet this difficulty, the Government must get down some rice; two ship-loads of rice should at once be ordered. Depôts should be established in important centres to prevent the raising of the price by local merchants. I am sure that the Government will do all that lies in its power to alleviate the sufferings of the people. But the difficulty lies with some departmental heads, like the Chief Engineer, and a good number of subordinate servants. Sir, your kindness to the subordinate officials is too much and the oppression that the people undergo on that account is too great. This is a time for strong action and effective administrative control. (*Hear, hear.*)

Next, turning to our educational system, Sir, I think there is something fundamentally wrong about it. We are flooding the streets with graduates and undergraduates, and they are running from office to office asking for employment. In what way is this problem going to be solved is an enigma. Unless the educational system is thoroughly overhauled and some new system of the education, whereby the people would be able to earn their livelihood, is introduced, I think the present system will work more to the detriment of the country.

Then one word about the journalism of our country. In spite of what some of our journalists might say against me and in spite of the abuse that, I am sure, will be levelled against me by some vernacular papers for what I am going to say, I cannot, as a lover of the country, help saying that it is high time that something is done to improve the tone of journalism in this land. It is highly regrettable that some of our vernacular journalists write and publish things which it would be a sin to allow our boys and girls to read. Such obscene things are published by some of the local newspapers. Some of our papers are certainly very respectably conducted by respectable men.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) May I know whether the member would recommend the censorship of the press?

PRESIDENT: I do not think that it is within the province of the budget discussion to attack the Press of the country unless it is the case of the member that the tone of the Press to which he objects bears on any administrative problem.

[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I think, Sir, it is one of the serious administrative problems that we have to face, because the good morals and the welfare of the people of the country are the most important problems that any Government have to consider. So it is that I draw the attention of this House to the fact that some articles appearing in the vernacular newspapers are such as would not be conducive to the good morals of the State. Obscene language must not be tolerated.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Will he please mention the name of the paper?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I do not mean to do so at present.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether he recommends the enactment of a Press Law?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): No, I do not recommend that. But, something should be done to improve the tone and to prevent the publication of obscene articles. It is more in the interests of the young generation that I say that something must be done in this direction.

Coming to the public service, many of my previous speakers have spoken sufficiently about it and about the predominance of the Brahmin element in the public service. And it is a fact. If the Brahmin heads of departments had been wise I think they would not have gone to such an extent to favour their castemen as to create a feeling of hatred and enmity in the minds of other castes. It is their actions that are undermining their position in the land. Of course for some time you may be gainers. But in the long run do you think, Sir, that the people of Travancore will be coolly suffering all this injustice? There will come a time when there will be such a revulsion of feeling and I think it will be to the detriment of the Brahmin community. Prudence is the better part of valour. So, in their own interests I would advise them not to carry on the policy which they have been pursuing hitherto, but to be fair to all communities.

Another point I wish to speak is about the corruption of our subordinate officials. The floods have now already done us a good deal of injury. People do not know the wherewithal to make both ends meet. Parents do not know how to feed their children. They do not know how to send them to school. Under these circumstances our subordinate officials roam about the villages and find *porambokes*, where there are none, and at the same time say: "If you give me something, I shall not make *porambokes*,". These officers are doing a great deal of injury. Even when I went over to Shertallai last time, many an honest man whose veracity cannot be questioned told me that the Assistant Tahsildar and his subordinates were doing a good deal of injury to them. Some of these *porambokes*—I myself inspected within the short time at my disposal. In some of those *porambokes*, there are trees ninety or one hundred years old. All these trees are included in the

porambokes. And the subordinate officials say: "If you consider us favourably, we will see that the *porambokes* are not found there." (*Laughter.*) I do not say this with any intention of playing to the gallery. I say these are things which oppress the people very much. For the rich man the payment of three or four rupees is nothing. But to the poor man it is a very great sum. It is a very great oppression to the poor man to be asked to pay this sum. If the work of the Assistant Tahsildars is stopped until at least the flood distress is over, it will be a great boon to Travancoreans.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Sir, I may at the very outset congratulate the Government on the prompt and vigorous measures they have taken for affording relief to the distressed in the recent devastating floods and for facilitating the task of reconstruction. We are glad that the Government have made an additional provision of three lakhs of rupees for repairs to public works damaged by the floods. We are considerably reassured by the statement that, if more funds are found to be necessary, the Government would be glad to provide the same. The additional provision of four lakhs of rupees now made for the restoration of agriculture in the affected areas would scarcely be sufficient considering the great damage done to agriculture. The Government must be prepared to find out additional funds for completing the restoration and reconstruction works. Therefore, they must scrutinise every item of expenditure and see whether it is indispensable. If it is not, it must be omitted. The unforeseen calamity has necessitated strict retrenchment and economy. Besides the reasons given above, the fact that, since the disaster has considerably affected our sources of income, our anticipated receipts will in all probability not be realised, must put us on our guard about our expenditure. Therefore, as I said already, we must apply our pruning knife to every item that is not indispensable. Applying that test, we must do away with the posts of Assistant Superintendents of Police, Assistant Tahsildars, Excise Sub-Inspectors, etc., the necessity of whose creation has not yet been made out.

Turning next to a review of the administration of the different departments of the State, our attention is drawn at once to some of the important characteristic defects of these departments. The first topic I wish to touch upon is the overwhelming predominance of foreigners in the public service. I do not suggest that this has been brought about in a single day or during a single administration. This is the cumulative effect of a policy pursued by foreign Dewans without break or remorse. The climax has been reached recently when the headship of most of the important departments has been captured by foreigners. The head of the administration is a foreigner, and the heads of the Public Works, Police, Military, Medical, Survey, Anchal, Education, Maramat, Land Revenue, Land Records Maintenance, Ayurveda and Archæology Departments are all foreigners. Besides this, most of the important appointments carrying high salaries are held by foreigners. The Principal of the Arts College and most of the Professors are foreigners. In fact the public service is practically in the hands of foreigners who shape

[Mr. M. N. Pillai]

or control the policy of the Travancore administration to its great detriment. The drain on the resources of the country is immense and the loss to national self-respect and national honour is equally great. These facts were brought to the notice of the Dewan several times, and yet the reply given was an affront to the intelligence of the people. The injury caused by this foreign preponderance is admitted; but a very modest demand to retire those foreigners who have put in 25 years' service and have earned their pension was refused. A request was made in the name of justice on behalf of forty lakhs of people. The existence of injustice was not denied, but a request to remove it was refused for the reason that the removal of this injustice affecting forty lakhs of people morally and materially would involve injustice to a few individuals! Is it injustice to ask a man who is in occupation of an office for over one quarter of a century and has earned his pension to yield the ground to its rightful claimant? The admission of evil should be followed by action directed to its immediate removal. The feeling over this inequity of foreign domination is very bitter and strong; and if the Government are not prepared in some manner or other to remove or mitigate this evil, there is every likelihood of this calm and peaceful Council being forced to share the vehemence of popular feeling.

Another point in connection with this is the predominance of Brahmins in the various departments of the State. It is very difficult for non-Brahmins to get admission to certain departments such as Education, Engineering and some others. The answers which have been supplied to my interpellations on this point would clearly bear out my statement. There was no time when Brahmin predominance has been so keenly felt as in the present administration. It is extremely shameful when people are crying hoarse over this matter that appointments of more Brahmins are being merrily made in the Education and Engineering Departments. The Government had the hardihood to confirm recently eight or nine non-Travancorean Brahmins as teachers when qualified Travancoreans were knocking unsuccessfully at the door of the department. The active encouragement which the erring Brahmin heads of departments get at the hands of the Brahmin Dewan is responsible for this extreme iniquity. The only solution for this problem is the one suggested by Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar, namely, to have Selection Boards or Competitive Examinations and to insist on the non-entertainment of members of the community that is largely represented in the service till an equitable proportion of appointments has been given to the members of other communities.

The treatment that the Travancorean officers in service receive at the hands of the foreign Dewan is so notorious that I do not wish to dwell upon it again now. The facts about the Professorships in the College and the pay given will amply illustrate this. Not only is this communal consideration seen in the case of appointments and promotions, but it is seen in the matter of punishments also. I would urge that all officers, however high they may be, who exhibit this kind of

corruption and nepotism, should be considered to be unfit to hold any responsible position and sent away from the service. The bold action taken by the Mysore Government should be followed here also.

Another point I wish to refer to is the most unwarranted and unjust differentiation made in the pay of appointments when they are held by Indian foreigners and Travancoreans. The Dewan said in the course of one of his Assembly Addresses that the "service in Travancore is none too extravagantly paid and the higher the standard of qualification needed for the discharge of duties of increasing complexity, the higher must be the wages paid." This was followed by the sudden rise in the pay of the Sanitary Commissioner and by raising the pay of the Dewan to a preposterous height. But when appointments happen to be held by Travancoreans, the pay of those officers is reduced. The pay of the Conservator of Forests, Director of Industries, the Brigade Medical Officer and the Sanitary Commissioner—these are conspicuous examples. On the other hand, when Indian foreigners are appointed to high offices, the pay that was given to their European predecessors is given to them without stint or reserve. The Darbar Physicians used to be European Military Officers who, for special reasons, should have reached the grade of Major or Lt. Colonel before they were appointed Darbar Physicians. The pay that they were entitled to in British India, with but a small addition, was given to them. Why should an Indian foreigner be given this concession and why should this be refused to a Travancorean? The pay of the Chief Engineer was raised as a special case in the case of Mr. F. J. Jacob from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,200. Why should Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar be given this special pay and why should this be denied to a Travancorean? This is an unmeritted slur on the character and capacity of Travancoreans.

Sir, all these are due to the fact that Travancore is being administered by a foreign Dewan. Salvation from these iniquities will come when Travancore is administered by a Travancorean who feels the patriotic instinct of serving his country and the people with devotion and justice.

Corruption is rampant in the public service and the depth of moral degradation to which the services have fallen now had never before been reached. The indiscriminate defence of wrong on the part of public servants has tended to the belief that the services will be protected under all conditions and circumstances. The policy adopted elsewhere of screening public services from exposure and punishment on grave political reasons is wrongly imitated here. During the last few years, there has been no instance of an officer being prosecuted for corruption. The policy of screening Government officials from blame has tended to increase corruption, and the refusal of the Government to place before the public documents having a suspicious odour about them have aggravated the tendency to corruption. The idea is erroneous that the services belong to the Government and that the people have nothing to do with them except to cry over their misdeeds like a cow crying over its lost calf.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ൧൧൦൦-ാമാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജററിനെപ്പററി വിമർശനം ചെയ്യാൻ ഭാവിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ രാജ്യമൊട്ടുക്ക് വിശിഷ്യ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും അഭൂതപൂർവ്വമായി സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വലിയ ജലപ്രവാഹത്തെപ്പററിയും അവ നിമിത്തമുള്ള കഷ്ടതകളുടെ പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗത്തെപ്പററിയും പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതെ കടന്നുപോകുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിലെ വലിയ നദികൾ കരകവിഞ്ഞു പ്രവഹിച്ചതിനാൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെയും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെയും കൃഷിക്കും കന്നുകാലികൾക്കും ഭവനങ്ങൾക്കും, എന്നുവേണ്ട, മനുഷ്യർക്കുപോലും അനവധി നഷ്ടം സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള വിവരം എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടതകൾക്കു പരിഹാരം വരുത്തുവാനായി ഗവർമ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും വേണ്ട സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യാൻ ഒരുക്കമുണ്ടെന്നറിയുന്നതിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ സമാധാനവും ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനോടു അധിക കൃതജ്ഞതയുമുണ്ട്. ഇതിലേക്കുള്ള വ്യയങ്ങൾ അസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ പരിണമിക്കാതെ ഇരിപ്പാൻ പ്രത്യേകം സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുന്നവർക്കു ലോൺ കൊടുപ്പാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നും അതു പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ വഴി ആകാമെന്നാണ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നതെന്നും അറിയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം എന്നുള്ളതു വളരെ നല്ല ഏർപ്പാടാണെന്നു അതിന്റെ നാമം കൊണ്ടു തോന്നാം. ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതി ഒന്നു പ്രത്യേകമാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ കഷ്ടത അധികം സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ നദീതീരങ്ങളിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കുട്ടനാട്ടു മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുമാണ്. അവിടങ്ങളിൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ വളരെകുറവാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളിലധികവും വർഗ്ഗീയസംഘങ്ങളാണ്. ജലപ്രവാഹം നിമിത്തം ആപത്തുകൾ സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു ദേശീയമായിട്ടാണല്ലോ. ഈ ആപത്തിനു ലോൺ കൊടുക്കാൻ വല്ലിടത്തും വർഗ്ഗീയമായുള്ള പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളെ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വേണ്ടവർക്കു ഈ ലോൺ കിട്ടുകയില്ല. സിവിൾസപ്ലൈ ഏർപ്പാടിൽ മുമ്പുണ്ടായപോലെ അഴിമതികളും ഉണ്ടാകും. മുനിസിപ്പാലിററിക്കാർക്കു വലിയ സംഖ്യകൾ കൊടുക്കാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതും അത്ര ശരിയല്ല. മുനിസിപ്പാലിററി സ്ഥാപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു എത്രയും പരിമിതമായ സ്ഥലത്താണ്. ആകെ കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുന്നവരിൽ വളരെ കുറച്ചുപേർമാത്രമേ പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കു. അധികവും നാട്ടുംപുറത്തായിരിക്കും. പട്ടണവാസികൾക്കു ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചു കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ വാങ്ങുവാൻ പ്രാപ്തിക്കൂടും.

നാട്ടുംപുറത്തുകാൎക്കു തങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടം ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ വളരെ പ്രയാസമുണ്ട്; അതുകൊണ്ട് താലൂക്കു സംഘങ്ങൾ ഏൎപ്പെടുത്തി അതുവഴി ലോൺ കൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വളരെ ഉത്തമമായിരിക്കും. താലൂക്കിൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളും പട്ടണവാസികളും ഉൾപ്പെടും. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവൎക്കും സഹായം ലഭിക്കും. റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണരുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ പേഷ്ക്കാരന്മാരും മററും അതാതു സ്ഥലത്തെത്തി അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുകയും താലൂക്കു തഹശീൽദാരും പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളും ഉൾപ്പെട്ട ഒരു കമ്മററി ഏൎപ്പെടുത്തി അതിൽനിന്നു ലോൺ കൊടുത്തുസഹായിക്കുവാൻ വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായിരിക്കും ഉത്തമം; അങ്ങനെ കൊടുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം വേണ്ടവൎക്കു ലോൺ കിട്ടുന്നതാണ. ഒരു താലൂക്കിലുള്ള തഹശീൽദാർ, ഡാക്ടർ, മുൻസിഫ്, ഇവരും ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും ഈ കമ്മിററിയിൽ അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കണം. ഭൂരിപക്ഷം അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥരായിരിക്കണം. എന്നാൽ പോലീസുമുതലായ ചില ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറുകാരെ ഇതിൽ നിന്നും ഒഴിച്ചാൽകൊള്ളാം.
(Laughter)

രണ്ടാമതായി പറയാനുള്ളതു പൊതുവിൽ ചിലവു ചുരുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യത്തേയും വിധത്തേയും പററിയാണ്. ഈ വിധത്തിലുള്ള ദുഷ്ടതകളെല്ലാം നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ രാജ്യത്തിലെ അധികച്ചിലവു നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം ചുരുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. നൂതനനികുതി ഇനിയും ഏൎപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ കഷ്ടത്തിലാകും. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വഹിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തവിധം ടോൾഗേററ് പീസ് മുതലായ ചിലപുതിയ നികുതികൾ ഏൎപ്പെടുത്തുകയും പഴയതിൽ ചിലതിൻെറ നിരക്കു കൂട്ടുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ അഭിവൃദ്ധി ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വൎയ്യത്തിലാണ് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതു്. രാജ്യത്തിലെ മുതലെടുപ്പിലല്ല. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വൎയ്യം നാൾക്കുനാൾ ക്ഷയിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് രാജ്യത്തിനു ദോഷകരമായ കാൎയ്യമാണ്. ജനങ്ങൾ അധികവും കൃഷിക്കാരാണല്ലോ. നിലം, പുരയിടങ്ങൾ ജനസംഖ്യപോലെ വൎദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്നു കൂടുതൽ വിളവുണ്ടാക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം കൃഷിക്കാരെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കൃഷിഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറ് ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ സാമൎത്ഥ്യപൂൎവ്വം ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നതായി വെളിപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടില്ല. ഇതുംവ്യയത്തിനുള്ള ഒരുപദ്ധതിയെന്നല്ലാതെ ഒരുവിധത്തിലും കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുതകുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പററി പട്ടണവാസികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ചെറിയതെററിദ്ധാരണകൾ ഇപ്പോഴും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കാം; എന്നാൽനാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലെ കൃഷി

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ക്കാക്കുപരക്കെ ഇതുപ്രയോജനരഹിതമായ വകുപ്പാണെന്നാണ് വിചാരം. അതുപോലെ ഇപ്പോൾ ധനപരിപോഷണകമ്മിററിയുണ്ട്. അതും ധനപരിശോഷണത്തിന്നല്ലാതെ ധനപരിപോഷണത്തിന്നുതകുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പോലെ അത്ര വളരെ ധനവും കാലവും വ്യയം ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും വ്യവസായ വകുപ്പും പ്രയോജനപ്രദമായി കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്രകാരം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് ചെയ്യുവരുന്ന വ്യയങ്ങൾ സഫലങ്ങളായിക്കാണുന്നില്ല. ഠരം സ്ഥിതിക്ക നികുതികൂട്ടുന്നതു കഷ്ടമാണ്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യം വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരാതെയിരിക്കാൻ ഉള്ള ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗം നൂതനനികുതികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്താതിരിക്കുകയാകുന്നു. ചിലനികുതികൾ അടുത്ത കാലത്ത് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയവ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു ചുരുക്കിയാൽ നികുതി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ കഴിക്കാം.

ഈരാജ്യത്തെ പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലേയും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വളരെ ചുരുക്കാനുണ്ട്. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും ആയിരം രൂപായിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ വേണ്ട. ഹൈക്കോടതി ജഡ്ജി, പോലീസുകമ്മിഷണർ, ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർ, എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡയറക്ടർ മുതലായ ഒന്നാംതരക്കാർക്ക് ൧,൦൦൦ രൂപാ മുതൽ ൫൦൦൦ രൂപാവരെയും രണ്ടാംതരക്കാരായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർക്ക ൭൦൦ മുതൽ ൧൦൦ വരെയും മൂന്നാം തരക്കാർക്ക ൩൦൦ മുതൽ ൭൦൦ വരെയും കൊടുത്താൽ ധാരാളം മതിയാകുന്നതാണ്. "ചുവർ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലെ ചിത്രമെഴുതാവൂ" എന്നൊരു പഴഞ്ചൊല്ലുണ്ട്. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഐശ്വര്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിലേ രാജ്യത്തിനു അഭ്യുന്നതിയുള്ളു.

സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും ഒന്നിച്ചു ചേർക്കാം. നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലുള്ള സാംക്രമികരോഗങ്ങളെ അവിടത്തെ മെഡിക്കലാഫീസരാണ് അറിയുന്നതു. അതിലേക്ക വേണ്ട പ്രതിവിധി ഡാക്ടർതന്നെ നടത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെല്ലാം ഗ്രാമസമ്പ്രദായമാണ്. അവിടങ്ങളിൽ സാനിറെററി ഏർപ്പാട് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. ഇവിടെ അതു വേണ്ട. അതുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവുചുരുക്കാൻ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാനിട്ടറി കമ്മിഷണരെ അടുത്ത കാലത്തു മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരുവലിയഒഴിവിൽ നിയമിച്ചാൽ മതി. അങ്ങിനെ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ പിരിച്ചു വിടാതെ കഴിയ്ക്കാം. (ചിരി) സാനിറെററി വകുപ്പിലെ ചെറിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തെ ഡാക്ടറന്മാരുടെ കീഴിൽവച്ചാൽ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെക്കാൾ നന്നായി

നടക്കും. റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ പേഷ്കാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഡിവിഷൺ അസിസ്റ്റൻറന്മാർ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരുടെ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്താൽ മതി. അവക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ ദേവസ്വം കാര്യം നോക്കേണ്ടല്ലോ. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ റവന്യൂകമ്മിഷണർ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരെ കൂടാതെതന്നെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ നടത്തും. അദ്ദേഹം പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർക്ക് ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം അഴിമതികളെ കുറച്ചുവരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടി മുകളിലും താഴെയും അധികം പതിയാതെ ഇടത്തരത്തിലുള്ള തഹശീൽദാർമാരുടെ നേർക്കാണ് അധികവും പതിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു. Laughted അത് അല്പമെങ്കിലും മററുള്ളവരുടെ നേക്കും പതിയുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. അഴിമതിയിൽ തഴമ്പിച്ചവരായി ഡിവിഷണാഫീസുകളിലും താലൂക്കുകച്ചേരികളിലും പലരും ഇരിപ്പുണ്ട്. അഴിമതിക്കാരെ എല്ലാം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു പിരിച്ചുവിടുകതന്നെ വേണം. അദ്ദേഹം കുറെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ അതു തുറന്നു പറയുന്നതു്. മററു പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും ധാരാളം അഴിമതികൾ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അത് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരിൽ പലരും തീരെ അറിയുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് ഭാവിക്കുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവർ ആരെല്ലാമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പറയരുതല്ലോ.

മൂന്നാമതായി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് പബ്ലിക്ക്സർവീസിൻെറ ശുചീകരണത്തെപററിയാണ്. അതിൽ വളരെ മാലിന്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ട്. പ്രജാസഭയിലുംനിയമസഭയിലും പബ്ളിക്ക്സർവ്വീസിൻെറ മാലിന്യത്തെപ്പററി പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾ മുഴങ്ങികൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണ്. മിക്കവാറും എല്ലാ മെമ്പറന്മാരും അഭിപ്രായയോജ്യതയോടുകൂടി വാദിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ് ഇതു്. ഇതുവരെ മാലിന്യങ്ങളുണ്ടോഎന്നു ഗവർൺമെണ്ട്പക്ഷത്തിൽ നിന്നും ശങ്കിക്കുമായിരിക്കാം. അനുഭവമാണല്ലോ പ്രധാനം. അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾക്ക് ഇതിലധികം മാലിന്യം വരാനില്ലെന്നാണ് അഭിപ്രായം ഇതുനിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങളുടെ മാനത്തിനും ധനത്തിനും വേണ്ടരക്ഷയില്ല. പണ്ടേതന്നെ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിചുമത്തിയതുനിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങളെല്ലാം കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിക്കയാണ്. ജലപ്രവാഹവും ഇപ്പോൾ പീഡിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും പ്രജകളെ ഞെക്കിപ്പിഴിയാൻ ഒരിക്കലും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് അനുവദിക്കരുതു്.

ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ സഞ്ചരിച്ച് ഓരോ ജനങ്ങളുടേയും അഭിപ്രായം ചോദിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരെ ഈ അഴിമതിക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷിക്കയാണ് ഒന്നാമതു വേണ്ടതെന്നു അവർ പറയുന്നു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ഇതു കാണുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് നടിക്കുന്നതു്. പക്ഷെ അവർ ശരിയായിട്ട് അറിയുന്നില്ലെന്ന് പറ

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman:]

യാൻ പാടില്ല. കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങുന്നതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ കാണുന്നില്ലായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ അതു നടക്കുന്നില്ലെന്ന് അവക്കു വിചാരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. കണ്ണിനടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന മൂക്ക് ആരും നേരിട്ടു കണ്ണുകൊണ്ടു കാണുന്നില്ലെങ്കിലും അതുണ്ടെന്നെല്ലാവക്കും അറിയാമെല്ലോ. കണ്ണാടിയിൽ നോക്കിയാൽ കാണുകയുംചെയ്യാം അതുപോലെ ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാക്കും സക്കീട്ടിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയാൽ കണ്ണാടിയിലെന്നവണ്ണം സ്പഷ്ടമായി അഴിമതിക്കാരെ കണ്ടറിയാം. അന്യദേശീയനായ റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണക്കാണെല്ലോ ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ വളരെ പ്രയാസമുള്ളതു്. എന്നിട്ടും അദ്ദേഹം അഴിമതിക്കാരെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ രാജ്യത്തിനു സുസ്ഥിരമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയൊ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ക്ഷേമമോ ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല. അഴിമതിക്കാരിൽ ഏതാനും ചില ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പിരിച്ചുവിടുമ്പോൾ മററുള്ളവർ നല്ലപാഠം പഠിക്കും. അങ്ങിനെ മുമ്പു കണ്ടിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണ്. അല്ലാതെ കുററം ശരിയായി തെളിയിച്ചിട്ടു ശിക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചാൽ അതു പലപ്പോഴും സാധിക്കയില്ല. എത്ര തെളിഞ്ഞാലും തെളിഞ്ഞെന്നു മേലധികാരി സമ്മതിക്കയില്ല. ഒരുവിധം തെളിഞ്ഞാൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് അവരെ സസ്പെൻഡുചെയ്കയൊ ഡിസ്മിസ്ചെയ്കയൊ വേണം. ജാതിത്തണലിലാണ് അഴിമതികൾ അധികം വളന്നു കാണുന്നത്. മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തങ്ങളുടെ വർഗ്ഗക്കാരാണ് കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെങ്കിൽ എങ്ങനേയെങ്കിലും രക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളും. പരാതിവന്നാൽ തങ്ങളുടെ ജാതിയിൽ പെട്ട ജനങ്ങളോട് നമ്മുടെ ജാതിയിൽപെട്ട ആളല്ലയോ ചില ദൂഷ്യങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം ഉണ്ടായാലും ഇപ്പോൾ രക്ഷിക്കണംഎന്നു പറഞ്ഞും മററും ചിലരെ സ്വാധീനപ്പെടുത്തി തെളിവുകുറപ്പിക്കാൻ നോക്കും. മററുസജാതീയരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും സഹായിക്കും ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കുറഞ്ഞവരുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഇങ്ങനേയുള്ള നയം ഉപയോഗിച്ചാൽ അവർ അതിൽ പെട്ടുപോയേക്കും.

നാലാമതായി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു്, രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ എല്ലാഭാഗങ്ങളിലേക്കും പ്രജകളിൽ എല്ലാ വിഭാഗങ്ങളിലേക്കും ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധ സമഭാവനയോടുകൂടി പതിയണമെന്നാണ്. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ അതിൻെറ ജനസംഖ്യയ്ക്കോ വിസ്തീർണ്ണത, നികുതി ഇവയ്ക്കോ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിനോ തക്കവണ്ണം റോഡുകൾ, വിദ്യാലയങ്ങൾ, കൃഷിസേചനവേലകൾ മുതലായവ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധി

ച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽനിന്നും എത്രയോലക്ഷം രൂപാ നികുതിയായിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഭാഗത്തോ ഏതെങ്കിലുംവർഗ്ഗത്തിനോ കഷ്ടതയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതു ഈ കൌൺസിൽവഴിയായിട്ടാണ്. ഗവർമ്മെന്റു അക്കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ടവിധം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. പല വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കും ഗവർമ്മെന്റുദ്യോഗത്തിൽ പ്രവേശനമില്ല. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരിൽ പലരും ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനത്തിൽ തങ്ങളുടെ ജാതിക്കാരോടു പക്ഷപാതം പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായി ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനറിയാമോ എന്നു ഞാൻ മുമ്പു ഈ കൌൺസിൽവഴി ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനോടു ചോദിച്ചതിനു ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന് അറിവില്ലെന്നു മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു. എന്നാൽ ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങളുടെ പട്ടിക ചോദിച്ചു വരുത്തിയതിൽനിന്നും ഈ സംഗതി തെളിഞ്ഞിരിക്കയാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനറിവില്ലെന്നു പറവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. എല്ലാ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും എല്ലാ വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിലും ഉള്ളവരെ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിൽ യോഗ്യതാനുസരണം ചേർക്കാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള തടസ്ഥങ്ങൾ തീർക്കണം. റവന്യൂദേവസ്വം വിഭജനം നടത്തിയതു് എല്ലാവർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കും അതിൽ പ്രവേശനം നൽകാനാണല്ലോ. വിഭജനശേഷം ൫൦ രൂപയ്ക്കുമേൽഉള്ള എത്ര ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായി എന്നു വർഗ്ഗംതിരിച്ചു ഒരു പട്ടിക തരുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ യോഗത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചതനുസരിച്ചു തന്ന പട്ടികപ്രകാരം ആകെ ൫൬ നിയമനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായതിൽ ൫൩ ഉം പണ്ടേതന്നെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം വഹിച്ചുവരുന്ന സവർണ്ണരിൽ നിന്നും ആണെന്നു വെളിപ്പെട്ടു. വളരെ നാളത്തെ ശ്രമംകൊണ്ടു ഗവർമ്മെന്റു വേർതിരിച്ചു. എന്നിട്ടും ഫലം ഇങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽ കഷ്ടമല്ലേ! മലം എലിയെ പ്രസവിച്ചു എന്നുള്ള പഴഞ്ചൊല്ലുപോലെ ആയിജനങ്ങളുടെപ്രതീക്ഷ. അതുപോലെതന്നെ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘവകുപ്പിൽ ൧൦൦ രൂപായിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളംഉള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ജാതിതിരിച്ചുള്ള പട്ടിക ചോദിച്ചതിനു ൫൩ പേർ ഉണ്ടെന്നും ൫൦-ം സവർണ്ണരാണെന്നും മറുപടികിട്ടി. മററുള്ളവർക്കു പ്രവേശിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തവിധം പണ്ടത്തെ റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെപ്പോലെ ഇതിലും വല്ലതും കൂടി ഘടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്തോ? ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്റെ നിയമനങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞികൃഷ്ണപിള്ളയുടെ ചോദ്യത്തിനു ഇന്നലെ കിട്ടിയ മറുപടിയിൽ നിന്നും ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ വർഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതം നല്ലവണ്ണം വ്യക്തമാകും. അതുപോലെതന്നെ

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

മിസ്റ്റർ നാരായണയ്യർ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളുടെ അധിപതിയായി വന്നതിനുശേഷം ഉള്ള നിയമനത്തെപററി ചോദിച്ചതിൽ ആ വകുപ്പിലുള്ള നിയമനമെല്ലാംതന്നെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സ്വജാതിക്കാരെയാണെന്നു വ്യക്തപ്പെട്ടു. കഴിഞ്ഞ ൧൨ വഷങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ ഹൈക്കോടതിയിൽ നിന്നുനടത്തിയ നിയമനങ്ങളെപ്പററി വർഗ്ഗംതിരിച്ചു ചോദിച്ചതിൽ അക്കണക്കെടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ശ്രമത്തിനു തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ഫലമില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞൊഴിഞ്ഞു. കണക്കുകിട്ടിയെങ്കിൽ മററുള്ളവക്കു നീതിയുടെ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായിരിക്കേണ്ട ഹൈക്കോടതിയുടെ നിലമയറിയാമായിരുന്നു. എന്തായാലും ഹൈക്കോടതിയിലെ ക്ലാക്കുകളാദിയായവരിൽ മഹാഭൂരിപക്ഷവും സവർണ്ണരാണെന്ന് എല്ലാവക്കും അറിയാം. ഞാൻ ഒരു സമുദായത്തെയും അവഗണിച്ചു പറയുന്നതായി ആരും തെററിദ്ധരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ബ്രാഹ്മണരായാലും നായന്മാരായാലും ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളായാലും എല്ലാവരും രാജ്യമാകുന്ന മഹാഭവനത്തിലെ തുല്യാവകാശമുള്ള സഹോദരന്മാരാണെന്നും അവരുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരസ്പരവിദ്വേഷവും അസൂയയും ജനിക്കരുതെന്നുമാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഈവിധ നിയമനങ്ങൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ തെററല്ലാതെ ഏതെങ്കിലും വർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെ തെററുകൊണ്ടാണ് നടക്കുന്നതെന്നെനിക്കഭിപ്രായമില്ല. എല്ലാ വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിൽ ന്യായാനുസരണങ്ങൾ ആളുകളെ നിയമിച്ചാൽ മാത്രമേ നീതിന്യായം നടക്കാനും നമ്മുടെരാജ്യം ധർമ്മരാജ്യമെന്ന പേരിനെ അർഹിക്കാനും തരമുള്ളു. എന്നാൽ അതിനായി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരീക്ഷ വയ്ക്കുകയാണ് നല്ലതെന്ന് ചിലക്കഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടു. അതു ശരിയല്ല. ഒരു വലിയ ജനവിഭാഗത്തിനു കിട്ടേണ്ടതിന്റെ ൧൦-ൽ ൧ പോലുമില്ല. ആയിരംരൂപാ ൧൦ പേക്കായി കിട്ടേണ്ടതിൽ—

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): തീർന്നു; കുറച്ചേയുള്ളു. ൯൦൦ രൂപായും ൯ പേർ എടുത്തു ശേഷം ബാക്കി ൧൦൦ രൂപായുള്ളത് എല്ലാവക്കുംകൂടി പങ്കിട്ടു എടുത്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നുപറയുന്നതുപോലെ ആയിരിക്കും. ഇത് അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ സംപ്രദായം അത്ര ശരിയല്ല. സാധനങ്ങൾ തൂക്കിയും അളന്നും കൊടുക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും കൃത്യമായി വശംതിരിച്ചു പങ്കിടണമെന്നല്ല; ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതിന്റെ താൽപര്യം; ആറും നൂറും എന്ന തരത്തിൽ വലുതായ വ്യത്യാസം ഉള്ളതു ഭേദപ്പെടുന്നതുവരെ പ്രത്യേകം നിഷ്കൃഷ്ട വേണമെന്നാണ്.

വടക്കോട്ടു റയിൽവേ സർവ്വേചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ഒരു സംഖ്യ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നതിനു ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനോടു നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞു കൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ റയിൽവേ കൊട്ടാരക്കരയിൽ നിന്നും എറണാകുളത്തേയ്ക്കാണെന്നാണ് കാണുന്നത്. കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടുപ്രജാസഭകളിൽ കൊട്ടാരക്കര മുതൽ പറവൂർ വരെയുള്ള മെംബർമാർ കൊച്ചിൻ കൊട്ടാരക്കര ആലുവാ റെയിൽവേ വേണമെന്നാണ് മെമ്മോറിയൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അങ്ങനെ ഒരു റയിൽവെ വരികയാണെങ്കിൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനും ഒരു നല്ലസംഖ്യ പ്രതിവത്സരം ലാഭംകിട്ടുന്നതിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സൌകര്യമായി സാമാനങ്ങൾ കയററി ഇറക്കുന്നതിനും മാർഗ്ഗം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനും ഇട വരുന്നതാണ്. കായൽകരയിൽക്കൂടി റയിൽവേ നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആളുകൾക്കു സാമാനം കയററിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു വലിയ ഉപയോഗമില്ല. കായലോരനിവാസികൾക്കു ചുരുങ്ങിയ കൂലിക്ക് ഒരു വള്ളത്തിൽ കയററി സാമാനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുപോകാം അതിനാൽ ഉൾഭാഗത്തു മെയിൻറോഡിനടുത്തുക്കൂടിവേണം റെയിൽവേ തുറക്കുവാൻ.

എനിക്കു ഒടുവിൽ പറയാനുള്ളത് എല്ലാജാതിമതസ്ഥർക്കും സത്രങ്ങൾ റോഡുകൾ ഇവയിൽ ഒരു പോലെയുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം അനുവദിക്കണം എന്നാണ്. അതു് രാജഭക്തന്മാരും ദേശാഭിമാനികളുമായ എല്ലാ പൌരന്മാരും ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിശ്വസ്തന്മാരായ പ്രതിനിധികളും ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന കാര്യമാണ് പലവർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കും പബ്ലിക്കു റോഡുകളിൽ പോലും സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമായി നടക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ല. വൈക്കത്തു നടക്കുന്നസംഗതി രാജഭക്തന്മാരായ എല്ലാപ്രജകൾക്കും വ്യസനം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതാണ്. പോലീസുകാർ റോഡിൽക്കൂടി ജനങ്ങളെ നടക്കാൻ സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തടഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണ്. അതു മതസംബന്ധമായ കാര്യമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറു തന്നെ ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു കൌൺസിലിൽ റെസല്യൂഷൻസ്വീകരിക്കയില്ലായിരുന്നുവെല്ലോ. ഞാൻ മതാചാരത്തെ ധ്വംസിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി പറയുന്നതല്ല. പബ്ലിക്കു റോഡാണെങ്കിൽ എല്ലാവർക്കും ഒരു പോലെ സഞ്ചാരസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം അനുവദിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

PRESIDENT: ടൈം ആയ്‌വിട്ടു.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): എന്നാൽനിർത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, for the third time, we have got the financial proposals of the Government placed before us for our consideration and acceptance. On the previous occasions, the budget estimates were subjected in this House to a careful scrutiny and discussion

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

which might probably have influenced the Government in framing this present budget with great caution and moderation. The past has taught us not to be oversanguine about the realisation of financial anticipations, as many economic forces, over which we have no control, may act and react against one another and falsify some of our predictions. It is, therefore, a sound policy for the budget-framer not to over-estimate our resources and under-estimate our revenue charges. A comparative study of the revenues of the State from 1093 will show that most principal heads of revenue are not likely to bring in an increase in the near future. Land revenue is decidedly stable and is more or less stationary. Receipts from excise are bound to go down in spite of the best efforts of the department to work out the policy of a maximum revenue for minimum consumption. There can be no steady increase in the forest revenue for several years to come. In fact, one need not be surprised if it goes lower still. Taxes on income are no doubt bound to increase, but the hopelessly slow rate at which our industries and commerce are being developed does not permit us to place much reliance on this source of our revenue either. On the other hand, we are bound to find funds for meeting the growing requirements of a progressive system of administration. It is a dead certainty that, year after year, under normal conditions, our expenditure will be increasing by an amount which will be between two and three lakhs of rupees. The Financial Secretary, while admitting that we are likely to have only deficits in the current year and in 1100, assures us that our financial position will not be wanting in either soundness or stability, when the abnormal conditions which have now disturbed all our calculations, have ceased to exist. On reviewing the accounts of revenue and expenditure for six years from 1093 to 1098 in his Appropriation Report for 1098, the Financial Secretary delivers himself, on incontrovertible grounds, of the opinion that,

> "the only way to ensure progress coupled with a sound financial position is to augment the revenue resources of the State and reduce the demands on them in all feasible directions."

This means that, if we do not augment our revenues and at the same time cut short our expenditure, our financial position will be anything but sound. It, therefore, necessarily follows that, with our normal revenue and expenditure, our finances are in a bad plight indeed. I do not, therefore, think that it is possible for this House to lay much store by the Financial Secretary's assurance I have referred to already.

But, meeting as we do, in the words of the Financial Secretary, "under the shadow of a great calamity" which is unprecedented in the memory of living men and which has caused wide-spread distress and laid waste vast areas in Central and North Travancore and in view of the admission made by Mr. George that the figures in the Revised Estimate for 1099 and the Budget Estimate for the next year are in a great measure uncertain, I do not stop to consider the soundness or otherwise of these estimates. I consider that at this hour the sympathy and support of this House must go in full measure to those unfortunate fellow-citizens who have been caught up in the floods and who have

consequently lost their crops, homesteads, cattle and all other belongings. We are thankful for the promptness with which the Government allotted funds for the relief of distress and for the reconstruction and restoration of communications as provided for in the budget we are considering. But I am far from believing that these allotments, and the way in which they are proposed to be spent, will adequately meet all the requirements of the situation. Thousands of people are rendered homeless, their houses having been washed away by the floods. The devastation has rendered them absolutely indigent—at least a good portion. The problem of reconstruction is indeed difficult, but must be solved by the public and the Government. It will not be possible in all cases for the poor homeless refugee to apply for and obtain an agricultural loan for reconstructing his house and purchasing his livestock. I believe this House will agree with me when I say that this relief and reconstruction measures should not stop with feeding the refugees until the floods subside and the refugees return to their places in the devastated tracts and with the restoration of the lines of communication. Committees of reconstruction must be organised in important centres in the affected tracts and funds must be made available for rendering gratuitous aid to those of the homeless who are unable to help themselves. Each case requiring help must be considered separately and whatever is possible and feasible must be done without unnecessarily sacrificing public funds. The reconstruction and restoration will be slow and will at least take six months. My point is that gratuitous aid must be rendered to those who have lost most of their property and whose staying power is so little that, unless extraneous help is made available, they will continue to suffer for a long time to come. I am sure this Council will be prepared to vote funds for any reasonable scheme of gratuitous aid in the work of reconstruction and restoration.

Coming to the allotments for Education, I am thankful that Government have provided Rs. 45,000 for fee concessions. At the same time, I take exception to the recent G. O. which modified the concession scheme announced by the Government last year. During the general discussion on the budget last year, two learned non-official members of this House objected on principle to the fee concession. The Director of Public Instruction met their arguments and justified the concession on the ground that this encouragement was given to these communities as they were backward in English education, their literacy in English not coming even to one per cent. The Government immediately changed their opinion—a commendable and welcome frame of mind absent in most Governments, I am prepared to admit—and promised in this House four days later that they would re-examine the matter. The learned members I have already referred to made pointed reference to its obnoxiousness as Ezhava children were also brought under its beneficial operation. By a recent G. O. Government modified the earlier scheme as far as it affected the Ezhava children and left it intact mostly in respect of others including Mahomedans. Now, I protest against this very invidious distinction drawn by the Government between Ezhavas

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and other communities similarly situated. I should like to know, and I believe this House has a right to know, why the Government refused to give the Ezhava student the same privileges they are prepared to give to a Mahomedan student. How is one principle right in respect of one community and wrong when applied to Ezhavas? Is not the defect, which the Government wanted to remove by this encouragement, equally present in both these cases? Is it because one community did not deserve any consideration at their hands? I do not think that this House need be told the position which the Ezhava community occupies in the economy of the State. Most of the industries and handicrafts are in their hands. They are not "drones" in society, but the real producers of wealth besides contributing their own share to the State coffers as other communities do. I do not claim any credit for the contribution we make to the State revenue in the shape of abkari receipts. I wish the Ezhavas had nothing to do with that tainted revenue. I maintain therefore that it is the duty of the State to spend liberally from its funds, if such a community, from whatever reason, is backward in education. This principle has been recognised long ago in all civilised countries and even in Travancore. The belated application of that principle to the Ezhava community cannot make it either wrong or obnoxious. By the revised scheme, the chances of the Ezhava student getting this benefit are very few indeed as his poverty—a very difficult question by its nature—has to be decided by a committee of three, almost invariably consisting of three caste-Hindus, whose sympathy may not travel beyond the borders of their own castes.

I may also avail myself of this occasion to invite the attention of this Government and this House to the problem of recruitment to the public service in Travancore. This has been an old problem with us. The agitation over it for the first time took the form of the famous Malayali memorial which came to pass more than 40 years ago. As a result of that agitation, in which all communities had joined, some communities were abundantly benefited while others were kept out on grounds of caste and religion. The administration of the country was then slowly emerging from darkness into light; and from the time of Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao the claims of all communities to have due representation in the public service was openly admitted. But the communities—rather the persons who got in earlier—entrenched themselves in safe positions and adopted a rigorous policy of exclusion towards those who had to remain outside till then. At the time of Sir P. Rajagopalachari, it was found that the backward and depressed communities were still kept out, and that the heads of departments, having no sympathy towards these classes and bent upon helping their own men to the exclusion of all others, were not likely to take recruits from the excluded classes unless the Government interfered in every case. He accordingly issued circulars to heads of departments compelling them to give preference to applications for

posts from Ezhavas, Mahomedans and such other backward classes. The Dewan used to get down statements from the heads of departments and examine them. There was thus some restraint in those days upon the open denial of justice and fair dealing towards applicants from the backward classes. This circular was since that time slowly being neglected until it is now considered almost a dead letter. Soon after the present Dewan took charge of the administration, the importance of this problem was brought home to him and he publicly promised to constitute a Staff Selection Board and thereby give the quietus to this vexed question. This promise has not been fulfilled and the Government have not yet satisfied the public why such a Selection Board, which is working satisfactorily elsewhere, should not thrive on the Travancore soil. There can be no doubt that the constitution of a Selection Board as contemplated by the Dewan would encroach upon vested interests and I was almost sure that those interests would place difficulties in his way. But, in consideration of the wider questions and interests involved, I thought the idea would fructify and the Board be constituted. Personally speaking, I was not much in favour of such a scheme, believing that the interests of backward communities will be safer in the hands of the Head of the Administration than in those of the Selection Board. But the statistics regarding castewar appointments furnished to this House in answer to the interpellations of non-official members reveal a miserable tale of official vagaries, caste prejudices and a spirit of exclusion. These interpellations were made to impress upon the Government the necessity for their taking some drastic action against those of their subordinates who are exhibiting such wanton disregard to the claims of other communities. I believe that these figures must have convinced the Government that these heads of departments and other officers who are competent to appoint their subordinates are acting against the interests of other communities, especially against the applicants from communities like Ezhavas. Since we have all studied these statistics, I shall not take up the time of the Council by any detailed reference to them. For purposes of illustration, I shall take up the case of Ezhavas only. There is only one Ezhava, probably, an acting hand in a whole army of clerks, Superintendents etc., in the Account Office. The new Development Departments of Co-operation and Industries are following a policy of rigorous exclusion of the Ezhava. The former, after much hesitation, has now got an Ezhava Inspector newly appointed. The statistics from the Education Department reveal a similar state of affairs though the vernacular section is not so hopelessly bad. We are not getting adequate encouragement and representation in the Excise, Forest and Registration Departments. We have the same complaints to make respecting the Medical, Engineering and Agricultural Departments. The appointment of a hand here and another there, at the instance of the Government, will not afford adequate remedy for the widespread malady. There are departments which are still entirely untouched by the Ezhavas.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Are there applicants for appointments in the various departments?

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): In the statistics furnished by the Government in respect of the Education Department, the number of applicants is also given. In respect of other statistics, the number of applicants is not given. From the figures available, I find that there was a large number of Ezhava applicants in the Education Department. But they were not appointed. If my friend wants information with respect to particular departments, I would be able to supply such information as I have.

Coming to the Land Revenue Department, I must say that the position is still worse. The Devaswom Department was separated at great cost to the tax-payer in order to give scope for the entertainment of the non-caste and non-Hindu sections of the population in the Revenue Department. Government have appointed an Ezhava as acting Tahsildar and a few Christians in similar positions and a Christian as Division Assistant. This is absolutely insufficient. As for the lower rungs of the Revenue service the statistics show that the classes for whose benefit the separation was effected are still far from getting anything better than small crumbs at long intervals. My submission is that this position is intolerable and that these statistics having been brought to the notice of the Government, if proper notice is not taken of the hostile attitude of these Government servants towards backward and unrepresented communities in the State service, they will be further emboldened to carry on more vigorously the same policy of exclusion and hostility. In spite of repeated representations at the sessions of the Popular Assembly, Government do not seem to have taken up this question for their serious consideration. It is the birthright of every citizen in a well-ordered State to have equal opportunity to serve the State to the best of his ability. The Travancore Government have adopted the same principle and stand for equality in rights and privileges and for affording equal opportunities for all. If that is so, one fails to comprehend how this Government can shut their eyes to the glaring injustice that is being done to various communities by their subordinate officers. My view is that it is moral corruption in a Government servant, though of a mild variety, not to view the applicants from all communities alike. In the face of these facts Government have no excuse for allowing this matter to lie over. Either a Staff Selection Board has to be constituted immediately or some other scheme has to be devised which should not leave the interests of unrepresented and backward communities to the tender mercies of Government servants who have established by their own conduct that they are unfit to exercise the right of appointment in their departments.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I would draw the attention of the Chair to the time.

PRESIDENT: I think we must adjourn now. I believe there are one or two speakers more on the non-official side.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I alone remain on this side of the House.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Edavagai*): I have also to speak.

PRESIDENT: There are then three gentlemen, including Mr. Ramankunju, on the non-official side who have yet to speak.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. Khadir Pillai also wants to speak.

PRESIDENT: Yes; there are four more gentlemen to speak. We will adjourn and meet again at 3-15 P. M.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-14 P. M. and reassembled at 3-18 P. M.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, the close of the year has brought us round to the State budget, the last in the triennium forming the duration of the present Council. Some perplexity in the consideration and unevenness in the discussion of the budget estimate are inevitable owing to the unforeseen events which have occurred in the interval between its preparation and its presentation to the House. The elemental fury that was experienced recently in certain parts of Central and North Travancore has been a veritable foretaste of the final Deluge. In view of that circumstance, the Financial Secretary seems to be somewhat ill at ease and he has practically thrown up the cards—quite an unusual thing with him, declaring that he is not on sure grounds either with respect to the income or with respect to the expenditure. So, to select a ground and to draw the representative of the Government, I mean our esteemed friend the Financial Secretary, to a fight seems to be absolutely profitless. All the same he has assured us, Sir, that there need not be anything like serious anxiety on account of the finances of the State. It is that portion of his statement that has not been quite clear to me. If the finances of the State are to be regarded as mainly intended for the upkeep of the officers of the State, for the demonstration of some jerky sympathy on occasions like the present and also for leaving such margin as would permit leakages from Government treasuries, which seem to have become common occurrences now-a-days, then I can understand the statement of the learned Financial Secretary, but not in any other sense. But, if the finances are to be viewed from the point of utility to the general public, from the standpoint of the various needs of the State in general, then how the Financial Secretary can dare assure us that the finances are in no danger requires further explanation from him. With respect to my own place I would illustrate the inability of the representative of the Government in this matter to satisfy the needs of the country—needs which certainly would not be deemed as in any way illegitimate. For example, taking into consideration the lessons which we cannot afford to lose sight of and which have been borne in upon our minds by the recent occurrences in Central and North Travancore, I may point out the various needs and necessities staring us in the face. Just as the floods were rising and spreading we could only get a fragmentary

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

notion as to the magnitude and the intensity of the inundation in the affected parts. Even on the receipt of such information, we realised our utter inability to reach the distressed areas. Relief and rescue could not be carried to the actual centres of distress; so much so, we had to wait for a few days before anything could be done in the direction of real relief work being undertaken at the instance of those persons who happened to be at Trivandrum. In view of that fact, let me point out, Sir, the very serious necessity of connecting the northernmost point of Travancore—say Alwaye or Parur—with Kottarakara, and thus link the whole of the State by railways. (*Mr. Nidiry: Hear, hear.*) That is a problem which has often been rubbed in upon the attention of Government by my friend Mr. Nidiry, and the need for such communication has now been clearly demonstrated by the recent inundation in Central and North Travancore. No doubt, Government have in view the feasibility of opening two lines—one in South Travancore and the other in North Travancore. Those of us who happen to come from North Travancore request the representatives of South Travancore not to view the matter in any jealous spirit and we disclaim on our part all envy and jealousy towards South Travancore. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, who unfortunately happens not to be present to-day, suspected a spirit of jealousy on the part of the representatives of North Travancore towards South Travancore and protested that such a spirit should not be entertained by us. It is in sheer necessity that this question has been brought before this House. In all patience we have been looking on South Travancore getting such favours as South Travancore has got already and we were never opposed ourselves to the measures taken by Government to improve the lot of South Travancore. But to say that continuously South Travancore should alone be in the enjoyment of all benefits and that if the people of North Travancore occasionally raise their voice in the matter of their local necessities, it is likely to be viewed as an exhibition of jealousy, does not harmonize with the sort of spirit that we expect from South Travancore. So, that is one chief necessity that stands out in the present situation.

Another aspect of the same question relates to the lines of communication available in North and Central Travancore. No doubt there are a few lines of roads now available for communication; but the absolute inadequacy of such means of communication has again been painfully demonstrated in connection with the present disturbances. So far as my taluk is concerned, we have got only a few miles of road now existing, from Alleppey to Ambalapuzha, which is the outcome of a peculiar set of circumstances during the time of the late Dewan Mr. Shungarasubbier, who, as a matter of famine relief, opened that road. Apart from that line, and apart also from the Alleppey town, we have not even an inch of ground to be called a road. So much so we are pressing it upon the attention of our esteemed friend the Chief Engineer to take up in all seriousness the line from Ambalapuzha to Takazhi and to convert it

into a proper road. I have challenged, I recollect, Mr. Natesa Aiyar to walk on the road in question during winter without risk to his shins. But he did not undertake that experiment and has thus saved his shins. It is so slippery and so dangerous and useless, during the time when its use is much needed that, during the present floods, people had simply to depend on flimsy canoes so that they might go to any place of refuge.

Another line that the people in the low-lying tracts of Kuttanad have been pressing for—the request has not emanated exclusively from my taluk, the same being a request from the people of Tiruvalla and Changanachery as well—is a road good enough to connect Ambalapuzha with Tiruvalla, on the east. They have even formed an association specifically for the purpose of agitating this question with the Tahsildars of Tiruvalla and Ambalapuzha as parties interested in the same. That is a line which was originally intended by the Government to be opened during a previous administration; but, in the exigency of the needs of other parts of Travancore, one Chief Engineer, in his wisdom, thought that he would recommend the dropping of the scheme altogether, and the Government, under such circumstances, accepted with glee the recommendation of that particular Chief Engineer. When during the time of Sir. P. Rajagopalachariar a deputation waited upon him to urge again the necessity for that road, though he put them off by saying that for the time being it was out of the question, he advised them to keep up the agitation and gave them the parallel of his own experience, *viz.*, that in his own village though they had been agitating from the days of their forefathers for a particular road they had not succeeded in getting the same and that in spite of that they had not slackened their agitation with respect to it, so that some successor might find it possible to grant the request. With such sanguine outlook in that direction I am bringing to your notice, Sir, that a line of that description would prove highly useful to the population now inhabiting the low lying tracts in our place, as it would enable them, on the occasion of the repetition of a calamity similar to the one we have just experienced, to escape for life to the elevated lands on the eastern side of Kuttanad.

With respect to the existing roads and lines of communication also, I have to urge one aspect of the question. We see, for example, in the case of the road from Kottayam to Changanachery that a section of that road annually gets inundated and remains under water for nearly a month. Year after year this Council is approached for the necessary money to restore the road to its original condition. A good deal of it is washed away and a good deal stands in need of annual repairs. I raise the question, Sir, whether it is wise economy to keep that road in that condition and whether the Public Works Department should refuse to profit by past experience with respect to that line. If it is not due to the low order of professional efficiency obtaining in the department, I ask why it is that this road is kept exposed to annual inundation like that and why such an amount of recurring expenditure is annually incurred. Cannot the P. W. D. take steps to see that the annual recurring expenditure of such a large amount is obviated? That is

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the question which I have to raise in connection with that matter.

Again, with respect to the recent floods I would invite the attention of the Agricultural Department and ask them whether they are quite ready to help the farmers and cultivators in Kuttanad and other places. My own apprehension is that the department may not be ready, for in spite of the various experiments about which much is being dinned into our ears year after year, regarding such an ordinary matter as to what other sort of paddy than the one now grown there would suit Kuttanad, I do not know whether the department has a ready answer. This is a very commonplace affair and without elaborate laboratory work the matter could have been experimented and decided. But it remains to be seen how far the department is capable of assisting the farmer and the agriculturist in the matter.

I desire to thank you, Sir, in this connection in your capacity as Dewan of the State, for your readiness to assist the suffering population, foreseeing the serious difficulties that they would be exposed to in connection with the cultivation that has to be carried on in the affected areas. The grant of Rs. 4 lakhs by way of agricultural loans, as was pointed out by Mr. Kunjitomman, you should not expect to be spent through the Co-operative societies exclusively, for, Co-operative societies do not, as a matter of fact, exist in various places and the difficulty of the loan reaching the hands of the needy people has also to be taken into consideration. Of course, Rs. 4 lakhs may not be sufficient in order to see that the whole area usually cultivated in the devastated centres is cultivated next year also. For that contingency, there is the hold on your promise that you are ready to place another supplementary grant at the disposal of the people so that they may restore the cultivation of all the paddy fields in question.

Then another department about which I have to say a word is the department of our friend, Mr. Dhanukoti. The greatest damage that has been caused to the population at large is with respect to houses and huts. In some parts, especially in Chenganur and higher up in Ranni and other places, the mischief has been done mainly, not so much by the trees and rivers as by the timber which ought to have been kept under the control of the department of Mr. Dhanukoti. What is said is that logs of timber that were floated down by the rivers were found ramming themselves against the houses. Many of the houses thus happened to be disjoined and washed away. Mr. Dhanukoti's department, therefore, certainly owes a duty to the population concerned. He must be ready to help the population that has suffered by the inrush of water and by the serious havoc played by his trees and timbers, by supplying the necessary logs of timber and building materials to them. But I fear he is not in a mood to do that (*laughter*), for, as I understand, just when the floods were about to subside, he proceeded to the flooded areas and he seems to have given out contracts for the collection of the drift wood, timber and jungle wood, quite useless

for any serious purpose—promising Rs. 2 per candy for collecting them at the Viyapuram Depot. Now, that itself, Sir, is a process of questionable wisdom. If the Conservator of Forests had been good enough to auction away these drift woods then and there, the poor population would have been benefited and the Government would not have been exposed to anything like loss. Now the payment of Rs. 2 per candy of timber to be collected at the Viyapuram Depot means an amount of expenditure on the part of the Government.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The statement is unjustified. It is not the timber collected by the department that has done the mischief but the trees uprooted by the torrents.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not want any explanation.

PRESIDENT: He should not be prevented from explaining his action.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have only to tell him that the timber that did the damage is not our timber.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayana Pillai is talking about the contracts for collecting the drift wood.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it a fact that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has made any arrangement with any person promising to pay Rs. 2 per candy of timber or any other material? It is upon the absence of any contradiction to that question that I am basing my argument.

Then there is the usual practice of putting off the sale of timber in the expectation of securing the highest price, till at last, at about the close of the year, in the anxiety to make good the anticipated income, the department is compelled to sell the stock to any purchaser, generally an outsider, accepting such terms as he offers. A repetition of that practice this year would be quite outrageous. To serve the teeming population of the State, the department should make an honest endeavour and should not withhold any assistance by considerations of making the largest profit. It is therefore that I am pointing out that, to the extent of the damage done to the houses by timber, the prices of of timber should be moderated and reduced to such a level as to make them available to those who stand in need of them. Now, the collection charges and the charges of keeping all these logs will have to be taken into consideration. The Conservator would thus go on adding to the outlay, and regard would not be paid to the demands of the people except upon immoderate terms. On the other hand, I would suggest that such of the driftwood and timber that he finds here and there in various parts of the affected area may be sold away on the spot. If possible, I would even request him to open a new depôt in any new centre so that the people who have suffered considerably on account of the flood may take advantage of the sale of timber. That is the way that our friend will have to approach the question and

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not in the right royal redtapist way. It is for that purpose that I would invite his attention. These are the main questions that I propose in connection with the flood.

Sir, in connection with this particular budget, I see that a number of other problems have also been brought up for discussion. As I pointed out at the outset, I do not consider it quite a profitable job to embark on a detailed consideration or a critical examination of the various figures supplied to the House by my friend Mr. George; but all the same,—

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the time? You have already exceeded your time, and there are other members who have to speak. Then the official members also must have a chance.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not want to take up any further time. I associate myself in a general way with the sentiments expressed by my friends on this side of the House with respect to the question of public service and also with respect to certain kindred questions which have been discussed by them. I am sorry I have no further time.

PRESIDENT: I would have allowed you to go on, but then the official members will have no chance whatever. So far as I can see, they have even now very little time for replying.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Edavagai*): Sir, while we thank the Government for their readiness in granting relief funds for the support of the distressed poor in the flooded areas and for the additional grants provided in the new budget, we wish that some kind of provision be also made for advancing small loans for the reconstruction of houses to the needy and homeless people of those areas. The actual labourer or coolie would have had very little to lose, for he practically lived a hand-to-mouth existence in the huts provided by his master. The few rich that have suffered may afford to reconstruct their homes without seeking Government help. But the middle-class man, the responsible agriculturist of the soil is the one that is most affected. He is entirely deprived of the fruits of his long-earned labour and now may be chucked back with refusals from door to door even when he wants a loan for the purpose of reconstruction. And imagine, Sir, the usurious interest the so-called banks of the State would charge at the present crisis. I do not think that the agricultural loans provided for would cover this item.

I do not agree with two of my previous speakers on their comment on the Co-operative Societies. It may be that movement in their province is very limited, but I cannot agree with them in the view that they may misuse the privilege if any is allowed to them. No doubt the percentage of the population making use of the Co-operative Societies or their members, if any, is really small. But I have known no instance when the need of any of their constituents is wantonly overlooked.

Under such circumstances, I believe that the Co-operative Societies, the real organ of the people—wherever there are such—alone would rise to the occasion. But how little can they do? How few there are of such? Still where their help can reach, I believe it is the duty of the Government to render help to their distressed constituents through them—by advancing long-term loans of low interest, repayable in instalments, as in the case of agricultural loans or for even shorter periods for about ten years.

In cases where the Co-operative Societies cannot be of any help, the Government has to devise means in advancing such house loans through some officers or other local bodies. In any case, the loans need not be of large sums; particular care ought to be bestowed that they reach the right man. The same point has to be emphasised in the case of agricultural loans also. From our past experience of such, we are obliged to remark that the loans hitherto forwarded have more often favoured the influential rich than the needy poor, and, in spite of all the precautions taken, instances are not wanting when the money advanced is not used for agricultural purposes entirely. The only efficient way to check and control the abuse of privilege, I believe, is to forward them through agricultural Co-operative Societies.

Here I may draw once again the attention of the Government to my interpellation last session for bringing together Kuttanad under a separate co-operative division. The Report on the Co-operative Department would go to prove that the taluks of Ambalapuzha, Changanachery and Tiruvalla are not in any way backward in subscribing to the co-operative movement. But I put the plain question—how many of the agricultural Co-operative Societies are registered to the real *punja* cultivators, or how many really contribute to their needs? Are not the societies of those taluks, most of them, registered by townsmen and up-country villagers for their use? Has not the Director himself felt the want of real co-operation when he recommended the great need for the establishment of Agricultural Boards? Is not the same sentiment echoed by the Industrial (Electrical) Engineer in his comment on water-pumping stations? Here absolute co-operation in agricultural operations is quite unavoidable and economic process cannot result without united action. I believe not only a Co-operative Inspector but also an able and qualified Agricultural Inspector should be put in charge of Kuttanad formed into a separate division. The Kuttanad *punja* lands are of a very peculiar type and in extent and resources, and in the yield of rice, the staple food of the Travancoreans, it can favourably compare with any other part of the State. The Director of Agriculture has always been able to give us great hopes, but with all his demonstration farms I wonder what little he has been really able to achieve. The Report of the Agricultural Department every year has to speak pages on the investigation of intensive methods of rice cultivation, selection of seeds, manurial requirements, etc., while one stops with astonishment and regret to read the two or three lines scribbled to fill up an otherwise empty column on *punja* cultivation. I cannot think, Sir, this is a factor to be so much ignored.

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We hear enough comments from the members on this side of the House on the real effects of *punja* demonstration farms. In our last Makaram session, Mr. Mammen Mappillai, the North Travancore Commerce member, on whose farm the demonstrations first began and still continue, vouchsafed before this House what little was economically gained on his farm by departmental work. And the Director himself would admit what little he was able to achieve by way of remedy to the cocoanut palm disease that has ravaged several parts of this area. When we remember that these are the two mainstays of the people over this vast area, one cannot congratulate the Government on the way in which this portion is neglected. To be plain enough, I have no belief in these demonstration experiments, for departmental operations cannot, as a rule, prove the economic and commercial value of the same. No doubt, the department must try experiments and carry on scientific investigations but they have to be confined to a true scientific research spirit. But the results of the investigations may be put to the economic test through private agencies—the ordinary cultivators—as far as possible, giving them advice, supervision and help and replenishing the loss, if any, sustained by them.

At least this year's report gives us one consolation that the soil analysis is completed. We fervently hope that hereafter at least something will be done outside the laboratory and in the open field.

Over and above the several points brought to the notice of this House by the previous speakers, I wish to mention two more. The first is on the Anchal Department. One would note with extreme regret that the Anchal Department, in spite of all the increased rates, is still working at a heavy loss. Though a gradual improvement is shown in the budget, it is neither sufficient nor satisfactory. Yet, we have to mend it and not to end it. We cannot recommend any increment in rates—rates that affect in a distressing manner even the pockets of coolies and paupers. The only way is to curtail the expenses as far as possible. But the details under the last three main heads stationery, printing and stamp manufacturing charges—are somewhat clouded in mystery; at least without further elucidation we could not adequately discuss the question and suggest remedial measures.

In consideration of the general policy, I have to press a word more and that is to comment on the *Kandukrishi nelpuras.* It is really a great grievance for the cultivators of the soil to be taxed in kind. It must be expected that the Government would have realised the serious hardships of the people when they considered and once for all stopped the old system of levy of tax in kind in *proverthi cutcherries.* The Government do not in any way gain by imposing these exactions upon the cultivators; and by abolishing the same the Government would only be gainers in their actual income. I wish the fate of some of the *nelpuras* in the recent floods must bring to the notice of the Government the serious consideration of somehow removing this long-felt grievance,

Before concluding, Sir, I would like to echo the sentiments of my previous speakers on the urgency of the Kottarakara-Alwaye railway line. So much has been said of the neglect of means of communication in North Travancore. All the people of thess taluks look to you, Sir, for the commenccement of this work.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Tovala cum Kalkulam*): Sir, இப்போது தயார் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கும் பட்ஜற்று அடுத்த வருஷத்திற்குள்ள வரவுசிலவுகளை காண்பிக்கிறது. அதில் 1100-மாண்டிற்குள்ள வரவு முன்வருஷத்திற்குள்ள வரவைப்பார்க்கிலும் குறைந்தும், சிலவு முன் வருஷத்திற்குள்ள சிலவைப்பார்க்கிலும் கூடியும் இருப்பதாக தெரிகிறது. இந்த வருஷத்தில் உண்டான ஜலப் பிரளயத்தினால் நேரிட்ட நஷ்டங்களை கவனியாமலே தயார்செய்த பட்ஜற்றானதினால் இதிலுள்ள வரவுசிலவுகளை உறுதியாகக் கைக்கொள்வதற்கு இடமில்லை. தற்காலத்தில் உண்டாயிருக்கும் கஷ்டநஷ்டங்கள் காரணமாக முதல் வரவு இன்னும் அதிகம் குறையவும், சிலவு இன்னும் அதிகம் கூடவும் செய்யுமென்பது திண்ணம். பெருமழையினால் திருவிதாங்கோடு முழுவதுமே பெருங்கஷ்டம் அடைந்திருப்பதுண்டு. Mr. ராமகிருஷ்ணபிள்ளை சொன்னதுபோல் வடதிருவிதாங்கோடு மட்டுமல்ல, தென்திருவிதாங்கோட்டில் உண்டாயிருக்கும் நஷ்டத்திற்கும் அளவில்லை. இத்தருணத்தில் ஜனங்களுடைய கஷ்டநிவர்த்திக்காக கவர்மெண்டார் செய்துவரும் உதவிகளுக்காகவும் இன்னும் பலவித உதவிகள் செய்து தரலாமென்று கூறியிருக்கிற வாக்குறுதிக்காகவும் நான் மிக நன்றி பாராட்டுகிறேன்.

மேல் வருஷத்தில் சிலவு கூடுதலாயிருப்பதை முன்னிட்டு கிருஷிக்காரர்மீது கூடுதல் வரி சுமத்தாமலிருக்கும்படி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

எதிர் பாராதபடி ஏற்படும் சிலவுகளுக்காக ஒரு சிறு தொகை ரிஸர்வ் பண்டாக (Reserve fund) கவர்மெண்டார் ஒதுக்கிவைக்கவேண்டியது மிக அவசியம். அப்படிச் செய்வதானால் அவசியமான வேலைகளை நிறுத்திவையாமலே கஷ்டநிவர்த்தி செய்துகொள்ளலாம். இப்போதே கிருஷிக்காரர்கள் மிக பளுவான தீர்வைகொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். ஒரு சக்கரம் கரம் தீர்க்கவேண்டியவன் நாலு சக்கரம் டிமாண்டுபடியும் கொடுத்து கரம் தீர்க்கிறான். டிமாண்டுபடியில்தானே இந்த வருஷம் ஏராளமான முதல் வந்திருப்பதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அதற்கு முக்கிய காரணம் பார்வத்திகாரர் ஊரூராய்ச்சென்று கரம் வசூல் செய்யக்கூடாதென்ற புதிய சட்டமேயாம். ஒரு பட்டாதாரனுக்கு அநேக நம்பர் வஸ்துக்கள் இருக்கக்கூடும். அவனுக்கு ஒவ்வொரு நம்பர் வஸ்துவுக்கும் தவணைதோறும் தனித்தனி டிமாண்டு நோட்டீஸ் அனுப்புகிறதாயிருந்தால் அவன் டிமாண்டுபடியாகவே எவ்வளவு பணம் செலுத்தவேண்டியது வரும் என்பது நான் சொல்லாமலே தெரியவரும்.

பார்வத்திகாரர் இன்னின்ன ஊரில் இத்தனையித்தனை நாள் கரம் பிரிவுக்காக தாமஸம் உண்டென்று ஊரார்களுக்கு அறிவுகொடுத்து அந்தப்படியே பணம் வசூல் செய்வதாயிருந்தால் மேற்கூறிய நஷ்டங்களுக்கு இடம் உண்டாயிராது.

[Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.]

வருமான வரி, சுங்கவரி முதலியவைகளால் நாங்கள் படும் கஷ்டம் கொஞ்சமல்ல. இதற்கப்பால் புறம்போக்கு ஆக்கிரமத்திற்காக எங்களிடத்தில் ஈடாக்கிவரும் பிழையும் ஐந்துரெட்டிக்கரமும் மிக ஏழைகளாக்கி விடுகின்றன. இந்தப் புறம்போக்கு ஸம்மந்தமான நடபடிகளெல்லாம் ஆக்ஷேபிக்கத்தகுந்தவைகளேயாம். பக்கத்திலுள்ள பட்டாவஸ்துக்களின் அளவை திட்டப்படுத்தாமல் புறம்போக்கின் அளவைமட்டும் திட்டப்படுத்தி ஆக்கிரமகேஸு உண்டுபண்ணுவதும் புறம்போக்கு பதித்துகொடுப்பதில் பக்கவஸ்துவிற்குள்ள கரத்தை கவனியாமல் மிகக்கூடுதல் கரம் ஏற்படுத்துவதும் சற்றும் நீதியான காரியங்களாகமாட்டா. தவிரவும் குடிகளைக்கொண்டு கல்லுநடுகிறதற்கு தெரியப்படுத்தாமல் அவர்களே கல்லுநட்டுக் கூடுதல் பணம் வாங்கி வருகிறதும் குடிகள் நட்ட கல்லு கவர்மெண்டிலிருந்து போட்ட கல்லென்று சொல்லி ரண்டு மூன்று வருஷம் கழிந்து பணம் ஈடாக்கி வருகிறதும் ஒரு வழக்கமாயிருக்கிறது.

மேல் உத்தியோகிஸ்தர்கள் ஸர்க்கீட்டு போகும்பொழுது இன்ன இன்ன ஸ்தலங்களில் இத்தனையித்தனை நாள் தாமஸமுண்டென்று புரோக்கிராம் போடவும் அந்தந்த ஸ்தலங்களிலுள்ள முக்கியஸ்தர்களை கண்டு நாட்டின் குணதோஷங்களை விசாரித்து அறியவும் வேண்டுவது மிக அவசியம். அல்லாவிட்டால் இப்போது வெளியிட்டிருக்கும் பிறஸ் நோட்டில்

"Alarming telegrams were received on the 17th and 18th from two private individuals of Nanjanad, but the Revenue Commissioner found on inpection that the area damaged, even according to the estimate of the petitioners, should not exceed 900 acres though the Tahsildar estimated it at only 440 acres. The crops between Kalkulam and Nagercoil were found to be in good condition. The Cape road beyond Suchindram had been submerged for 2 to 3 furlongs length and there was a flow across the road dam beyond the Oluganasseri bridge. The road to Tiruppatisaram was breached and the brick wall on the tank side of the Tiruppatisaram Palace pushed out to a length of 70 feet. There were no breaches to irrigation tanks or channels."

சொல்லியிருக்கிறது போல் ஜனங்கள் சொல்லுகிறது நம்பிக்கையில்லாமல் பெரிய உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் சொல்லுகிறதை மட்டும் நம்பினால் குடிகள் மோசம் போகிறதற்கு இடம் வரும். பிறஸ் நோட்டில் (Press Note) நாஞ்சிநாட்டில் பெரும்மழையினால் உண்டான நஷ்டத்தை ரெவனியு கம்மிஷணர் (Revenue Commissioner) போய்ப் பார்த்ததில் 900 ஏக்கர்க்கு கூடாமலும் தகசீல்தார் போய் பார்த்ததில் 450 ஏக்கருக்கு கூடாமலும் நஷ்டப்பட்டிருக்கிருக்கிறதாக தெரிகிறது. தவிரவும் ஆற்றுங்கரையோ குளத்தின்கரையோ உடையவில்லை என்றும், திருப்பதிஸாரம் ரோட்டில்தான் ஒரு உடைப்புஉண்டு என்றும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. திருப்பதிஸாரம் ரோட்டில் உடைப்பு இல்லை. பழையாற்றுங்கரையில் தான் உடைத்திருக்கிறது. அதை சீப் இஞ்சினீரும் (Chief Engineer) வந்து பார்த்திருக்கிறார். ஆதலால் இந்தப் பிறஸ் நோட்டை எப்படி நம்

பலாம்? கல்க்குளம் முதல் நாகர்கோவில் வரை கிருஷிகள் நல்ல ஸ்திதியிலிருக்கிறதாக கம்மீஷணர் சொல்லுகிறார். அதாவது மேயின் ரோட்டுக்குப் பக்கத்தில் உள்ள நிலங்களை பார்த்திருக்கக்கூடும். அல்லாமல் கிருஷிக்காரரை வருத்தி நஷ்டப்பட்ட இடங்களை பார்க்கவில்லை என்று தெரிகிறது.

இனி வனம் டிப்பார்ட்டுமெண்டு (Forest) விஷயமாக இரண்டொரு வார்த்தை சொல்லிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த டிப்பார்ட்டுமெண்டு உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் முதலெடுப்பு அதிகமாக காண்பிக்கும் பொருட்டு கிருஷிக்கார்களுக்கு இடைஞ்சலான காரியங்கள் அனேகம் செய்து வருகிறார்கள்.

கிருஷிக்காரர்களுக்கு உபயோகமான குழை, விறகு, ஆடு, பிறநாட்டு ஆடு, மாடு இவைகளுக்கு தீர்வை சுமத்தியிருக்கிறது மிகவும் கஷ்டமான காரியம். கிருஷி செய்து வரும் நிலவரப்புவரையிலும் ரிஸர்வாக்கி (Reserve) விடுவதினால் காட்டு மிருகங்கள் பயிருக்குப் பலவிதமான துன்பங்களை உண்டாக்கி விடுகின்றன. இதல்லாமலும் விருக்ஷங்கள் ஒன்றுமேயில்லாத வெறும் கல்கறடான பூமிகளையும் ரிஸர்வோடு சேர்த்து விடுகிறார்கள். இதனாலும் கிருஷிக்காரர்களுக்கு சங்கடம் ஏற்படுகிறது.

இப்பொழுது ஜலப்பிரளயத்தால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிற கஷ்டநஷ்டங்களை நிவர்த்திசெய்வதற்காக அனுவதிக்கப்படும் பணத்தை அந்த அந்த தாலூக்கிலுள்ள பிரதானிகளை கலந்து செலவு செய்ய வேண்டியது மிக அவசியம்.

கவர்மெண்டுக்கு வரவு கூட்டவேண்டிய காரியத்தையும் செலவு குறைக்கவேண்டிய காரியத்தையும் பற்றி முன் எனது சிநேகிதர் Mr. T. Kumara Pillai சூண்டிக் காண்பித்து சொல்லியிருப்பதினால் நான் கூடுதல் நேரம் எடுக்கவில்லை.

Mr. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : Sir, I am not ready to speak anything about the budget, because the floods did not permit me to come here in time. I reached here only to-day at 12 o'clock and I got the budget papers only afterwards. So I had no time to go through the budget. I think that my present duty is to say a few words about the distress, damage, loss and calamity caused by the recent floods. I hope that the Government and all the members on both sides of this House including you, Sir, have fully understood the sad situation and I do not feel ashamed to admit that I am too poor in English to express the situation satisfactorily before this House. I find no adequate words to express the loss sustained by the people of Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad, including Alwaye, and Parur taluks. I myself have sustained a loss of more than Rs. 7,000 by the flood and I do not hide the fact that my loss, when compared wlth the losses sustained by others, will not come to one cash per rupee. I hope that the Government will not think that I am exaggerating the figures when I say that, on an average, not less than 25 per cent. of the houses, 20 per cent. of the cattle and 75 per cent, of the crops has been destroyed by the flood, besides a large portion of the household materials including cots, almirahs, cooking vessels, clothes, rice, etc. People have no seeds or good cattle for the

[Mr. C. Ramankunju.]

coming Makaram and Medam crops. In short, I can boldly say that, if Government do not find measures to help the people, I have no hesitation in saying that the future of the country will be very deplorable.

Now the Government alone can help us from this critical situation. I assure the Government that the general public will, with heart and soul, co-operate with them to the best of their ability, to make their efforts a success. If the people are happy, no doubt, the Government will be more happy. If the people become poor, I am sure that the Government in course of time will become poorer. I do not suggest anything regarding the measures to be taken by the Government for relieving distress. I leave it to the Government to find the best means to help the people and save them from the present situation. The loss sustained by the people of the northern taluks, I can estimate, is not by lakhs of rupees but only by crores; and I do not know how many good years must follow to regain the normal condition. If the Government have no money at their disposal to meet this unexpected heavy expenditure, let the Government borrow on our behalf and we shall be very glad to pay additional taxes to clear the debt when good days come. I therefore request you, Sir, to make early arrangements to redress the sad situation.

MR. C. RAMANKUNJU (*Nominated*): സർ, ഭയങ്കരമായ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം നിമിത്തം കഷ്ടതകൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവർക്കും അവരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനായി ദ്രവ്യനഷ്ടം കായക്ലേശം മുതലായവ സഹിച്ച് അക്ഷീണം പരിശ്രമിക്കുന്ന ദീനദയാലുക്കൾക്കും വേണ്ടി ഗവർമെന്റു യഥാകാലം ചെയ്ത എല്ലാ സഹായങ്ങൾക്കും നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuza*): Louder please.

MR. C. RAMANKUNJU (*Nominated*): ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം കൃഷിക്കാരന്റെ ശരീരം ഒഴിച്ചുള്ള എല്ലാസാധനങ്ങളും കടലിൽ കൊണ്ടു തള്ളിയിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാകുന്നു. കൃഷിക്കാരൻ തന്റെ ഉപകരണങ്ങളോ, ഉരുക്കളോ, വിത്തോ, വേലക്കൂലികൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ധാന്യമോ ഒന്നും കൂടാതേയും എന്തുചെയ്യണമെന്നു അറിയാതേയും വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഘട്ടമാണിത്. തന്റെകൃഷിജോലി ചെയ്യേണ്ടവരും, വീടില്ലാതെയും, ആഹാരസാധനമില്ലാതേയും വല്ലവരും അല്പംധാന്യം ധർമ്മമായി കൊടുത്താൽ വേവിക്കുന്നതിനു പാത്രംപോലുമില്ലാതേയും വലയുന്നവരും ആയപാവപ്പെട്ടവരുടെ സഹായാപേക്ഷകളെ കേട്ടു യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്വാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതിനാലുള്ള ധർമ്മസങ്കടം അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഒരവസരമാണിതു്.

ഒഴുക്കും വെള്ളവും നിമിത്തം കൃഷി ചെയ്തിരുന്ന വസ്തുക്കൾ എല്ലാം നശിച്ചു. നമ്മുടെ പ്രധാനവ്യവസായസാധനമായ കയറുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു

വേണ്ട അഴുക്കിലിട്ട തൊണ്ട മുഴുവൻ കടലിനു ആഹാരമായി. വെള്ളം കെട്ടിനില്ക്കനിമിത്തം തെങ്ങിലെ വിളവിനും സാരമായ കേടുതട്ടുന്നതാകുന്നു.

ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അടുത്ത കൊല്ലങ്ങളിൽ വ്യവസായവാണിജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഉള്ള ആദായം വളരെ തുച്ഛമായിരിക്കാനേ ഇടയുള്ളു. ഗവൺമെൻറിന് എല്ലാവകുപ്പുകളിലും ഉള്ള വരവിൽ അനല്പമായ കുറവു സംഭവിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു രണ്ടു പക്ഷമില്ല.

ഈ അപകടസ്ഥിതിയിൽ നിന്നും രക്ഷപ്രാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള എല്ലാമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിലും ഉടൻ പ്രവേശിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിച്ച് ഒന്നാമതായി ആഹാരസാധനത്തെയും രണ്ടാമതു തൊഴിലുകൾക്കു വേണ്ട പരുക്കൻ വസ്തുക്കളേയും എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർത്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ ക്ഷാമവും പട്ടിണിനിമിത്തമുള്ള ജനനാശവും തന്നിമിത്തമുണ്ടായേക്കാവുന്ന സമാധാനമില്ലായ്മയും ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ വളരെ നാൾ പീഡിപ്പിക്കാൻ സംഗതിയാകുന്നതാകുന്നു.

നെൽകൃഷിക്കു പ്രസിദ്ധിയുള്ള കുട്ടനാടൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ അടുത്ത കൃഷിയെ വളരെ ഫലപ്രദമാക്കത്തക്ക വിധത്തിൽ വേണ്ട എക്കൽ വന്നുചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും കൃഷിചെയ്തുവന്ന എല്ലാനിലങ്ങളിലും തക്കസമയത്തു കൃഷി ഇറക്കുകയും അസാധാരണ സംഭവങ്ങൾ നിമിത്തം കേടുപററാതെയും ഇരിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ പല[illegible] ക്ഷാമത്തിനു ഇടവരാതെ കഴിക്കാവുന്നതാണെന്നുമാണറിയുന്നത്. വെള്ളത്തിൽ മുങ്ങിയ മററുപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും അടുത്തനെൽകൃഷി കൂടുതൽ ഫലപ്രദമായി തീരുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണറിയുന്നത്.

നെല്ലുപോലെതന്നെ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള മരച്ചീനികൃഷിയും തക്കസമയത്തു നടപ്പിലാക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

ഇവയെല്ലാംവേണ്ടി ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ നീക്കിവയ്ക്കയും കൂടുതൽ വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന സംഖ്യ ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഗവൺമെൻറ് സന്നദ്ധരായിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നത് ചാരിതാർത്ഥ്യജനകംതന്നെ.

എന്നാൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് അനുവദിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ തക്കസമയത്തുകൃഷിക്കാർക്കു കിട്ടുന്നതിനുകൂടി വേണ്ടതു കരുതി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ധനംകൊണ്ടുസഹായം ചെയ്തതായി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു വിചാരിക്കാമെന്നല്ലാതെ സാരമായപ്രയോജനങ്ങൾ ഒന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ ആവശ്യസംഖ്യ ഓരോ താലൂക്കിനും അഡ്വാൻസുചെയ്യുന്നതിനുമുൻപായി അതതുതാലൂക്കിലുള്ള ഓരോപകുതിയിലും വായ്പ ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഓരോ കൃഷിക്കാരൻെറയും

[Mr. C. Ramankunju.]

സ്വത്തു വിവരവും ഓരോതരം കൃഷിക്കുമുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തിന്റെ വിസ്തീർണ്ണവും അതിൽ കൃഷി ഇറക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ചിലവും വായ്പയായി വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന സംഖ്യയും കാണിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്റ്റേയിറ്റുമെന്റ് അടുത്ത ചിങ്ങം ൧൦-ാംതീയതിക്കു മുൻപായി പാർവ്വത്യകാർമുഖാന്തിരം തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതിനും, നെൽകൃഷിക്കാർക്കു നെൽകൃഷിക്കാരുടെയും, ചീനികൃഷിക്കാർക്കു അവരുടെയും മററുഓരോതരം കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു അവരുടേയും സപ്രവർത്തനധനസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ച് അടുത്തകൃഷിക്കു പററത്തക്കവണ്ണം വേണ്ട പണം വായ്പകൊടുക്കുന്നതിലേക്ക് അതാതുതാലൂക്കിലെ റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം രജിസ്ട്രാരുമായി ആലോചിച്ചു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഉത്തരവുകൾ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് ഉടനെ പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉത്സാഹമായി പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചാൽ ആ രണ്ടുമാസങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ വേണ്ട സംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചുവായ്പകൊടുക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാകുന്നു. ഈവിധം കൊടുക്കുന്ന വായ്പകൾ കൃഷി കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ഏററവും എളുപ്പത്തിൽ തിരിയെ അടയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും അടുത്ത ഒന്നു രണ്ടു കൃഷികൾക്കുകൂടി വീണ്ടും ആവശ്യാനുസരണം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും. ഈ കൊല്ലംവരെ മരച്ചീനിയും നെല്ലും കൃഷിചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന നിലങ്ങൾ കൃഷിചെയ്യാതെതരിശായിട്ടുന്നവരിൽനിന്നും ഒരു കൂടുതൽ കരംകൂടി വസൂൽ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ഉണ്ടായാൽമാത്രമേ ഭാവിയിലുണ്ടാകാവുന്ന ക്ഷാമത്തിൽനിന്നും നമുക്ക് അല്പംഎങ്കിലും ഒഴിഞ്ഞുനില്ക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാകയുള്ളൂ. കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു വായ്പകൾ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണമോപ്രയോജനമോ വർദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നുമാത്രം ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചല്ല; എന്നാൽ ജലപ്രളയംനിമിത്തം സംകടത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടു വലയുന്ന ജനതതി റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ നിയമപരിപാലനച്ചട്ടങ്ങളുകളിൽക്കൂടി കടന്നുപോകുന്നതിന് ഇപ്പോൾ ശേഷിമാന്മാരല്ലെന്നുള്ളതിനെക്കൂടി ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണ്.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുപോയ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾക്കു പകരം നെല്ല് അരിമുതലായതിനു നാം ഇപ്പോഴത്തേതിലും കൂടുതലായി ഒരു വർഷത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും പരദേശത്തെ ആശ്രയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കച്ചവടസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങൾ നല്ലപോലെ മനസ്സിലാക്കീട്ടുള്ള ഈ നാട്ടിലെ കച്ചവടക്കാർ ലാഭം കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി എപ്പോഴും അവരുടെ ഇറക്കുമതിയെ ക്രമീകരിക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കും. അതും ക്ഷാമത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും. ഇതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനും Harrisons and Crosfield പോലെയുള്ള ഏതെങ്കിലും കമ്പനികളുമായി

നെല്ലരി വരുത്തി ക്രമമായവിലയ്ക്കു വില്ക്കുന്നതിന് ഏപ്പ്പാടുചെയ്കയും അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന മൂലധനം അങ്ങനെയുള്ള കമ്പനിക്കാരെ ഏല്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

ഇതിനെല്ലാം വേണ്ടിവരുന്നമുതൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വിഷമമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കടപ്പത്രം മുഖാന്തരമൊ നമ്മുടെരാജ്യത്തിൽ അനേകകാലമായി പ്രവൎത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഇമ്പീരിയൽബാങ്കിനോടൊ കടംവാങ്ങിയൊ കടം കൊടുത്തു സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളത് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരുനേരത്തെ ധൎമ്മക്കഞ്ഞി കടിച്ചും കുടിക്കാതെയും സൎക്കാർ കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിലും, പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലും, പബ്ളിക്കു നിരത്തുകളിലും മററും കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടിപ്പോരുന്ന അധഃകൃതവൎഗ്ഗക്കാരേയും മററു കൂലിപ്പണിക്കാരേയുംപററിയാകുന്നു.

ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ളവൎക്കു താമസിക്കുന്നതിനു സൌകൎയ്യവും ജോലിയും എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത് ആവശ്യമാകുന്നു. താമസസൌകൎയ്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു Protector of the Depressed Classes മുഖേന വേണ്ട ഏപ്പ്പാടുകൾ ഗവൎണ്മെൻറുടനെ ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

ജോലിയുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുക എന്നത അധഃകൃതരുടെ യജമാനന്മാരായ കൃഷിക്കാൎക്ക് അടുത്തകൃഷിക്കുള്ള പ്രാരംഭവേലകൾ തക്കസമയത്ത് ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനു സൌകൎയ്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുകയും ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഇൻജിനീയർ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിനു അനുവദിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന വേലകൾ മുഴുവനും ആണ്ടാരംഭം മുതൽ ഊൎജ്ജിതമായി നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഏൎപ്പാടുചെയ്യുകയും ആകുന്നു.

തലസ്ഥാനനഗരത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ സംരക്ഷണവേലകൾക്കായി ഏല്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ള കമ്മിററി അവരുടെ ഉദ്ദേശങ്ങളെ ശരിയായി നിവൎത്തിക്കുന്നതിന് അവരെ വേണ്ടവിധം സഹായിക്കുന്നതിന് ഓരോഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലെയും എല്ലാഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കും ഉള്ള ചുമതലയെ ഗവൎണ്മെൻറ് അവരെ ധരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തെ ചിലവ് ഏതുപ്രകാരത്തിലും വരവിനെ അധികരിച്ചിരിക്കാനേ തരമുള്ളു എന്നും എന്നാൽ അത് എത്രമാത്രമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ തരമില്ലാതെയുമാണിരിക്കുന്നത്.

കഴിഞ്ഞ യുദ്ധകാലത്തു നമ്മുടെ കോശസ്ഥിതിമോശമായിരുന്നിട്ടും ക്ഷാമബത്തയും, ശമ്പളക്കൂടുതലും ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കു കൊടു

[Mr. C. Ramankunju.]

ത്തുസഹായിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് വളരെ ഔദാര്യമായിപ്രവൎത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഗവൎണ്മെൻറും ജനങ്ങളും വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കുള്ള ചുമതലയെ അവർ വിസ്മരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കാം. ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ശമ്പളത്തിൽ നിന്നും അവരുടെ സഹജമായ ആഡംബരച്ചിലവുകഴിച്ച് ഒരു വലിയ ഭാഗം മിച്ചം വരുത്തുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു ഈയിടെ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറുമേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ കോടതിമുമ്പാകെ തെളിവുമൊഴിയിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകാണുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ വരവിനു കുറവുസംഭവിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ചിലവിനും കുറവുവരുത്തേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാകുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങനെയുള്ള കുറവ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളമാഴച്ചുള്ള ഏതിനത്തിലും വരുത്തുന്നത് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു പററിയതായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഗവൎണ്മെൻറും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും തമ്മിൽ ആലോചിച്ചു ആവശ്യമായാൽ ൫൦൦ രൂപാവരെ ശമ്പളമുള്ള എല്ലാഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ൧൦൦ രൂപായും, ൫൦൦ രൂപായ്ക്കുമേൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും അവരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ പകുതിയും ൧൧൦൦ മാണ്ടിൽ പററി ബാക്കി സംഖ്യ ക്ഷാമനിവാരണാൎത്ഥം ഒഴിയുന്നതായാൽ നമ്മുടെ ചിലവിൽ ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു തുക കുറവു വരുന്നതും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ കൃതജ്ഞതയും കൂടുതൽ സ്നേഹവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതുമാകുന്നു.

ബഡ്ജററിനെപ്പററിയുള്ള മറെറല്ലാ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളിലും മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ള മുതലായ മെംബൎമ്മാരോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു.

അധഃകൃതവൎഗ്ഗക്കാരെ നന്നാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആശയം ശ്ലാഘനീയമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജററിലും, ഫീസു സൌജന്യം, സ്റ്റൈപ്പെൻഡു മുതലായസംഗതികൾക്കും, കുടിപാൎപ്പിനു സ്ഥലം വാങ്ങികൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടി ഗണ്യമായ സംഖ്യകൾ നീക്കിവച്ചു കാണുന്നു. ഇതിൽ ആ സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള നന്ദിയെ പ്രദൎശിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

സമുദ്രതീരവാസികളായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ജലദൌൎല്ലഭ്യം നിമിത്തമുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്കു നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാകേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവൎണ്മെൻറു വാഗ്ദത്തം ചെയ്ത പ്രകാരം ഏതാനും കിണറുകൾ ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ തീൎക്കുകയും വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും വരുത്തുന്ന Boring Dril വന്നുചേൎന്നാലുടനെ കായംകുളം കായലിന്റെ കരയിലുള്ള തറെക്കടവുതുറയിൽ ശുദ്ധജലം എടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പരിശോധനവേല ആരംഭിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

മത്സ്യവ്യവസായം രാജ്യത്തിലെ പൊതുമുതലിനെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ പ്രാധാന്യമേറിയ ഒരു വ്യവസായമാകുന്നു. ആ വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധി അതിലേർപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ ആശ്രയിച്ചാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. മത്സ്യവ്യവസായികൾ സാമാന്യേന ദരിദ്രന്മാരും അവരുടെ ആദായം ഇപ്പോൾ അനിശ്ചിതവുമാകുന്നു; ഈ വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു ഗവർമ്മെന്റു മത്സ്യവ്യവസായികളുടെയിടയിൽ ഫിഷറീസു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും നടത്തിവരുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള സ്കൂളുകൾ കൂടുതലായി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

മത്സ്യവ്യവസായികളുടെ പ്രധാനവ്യവസായധനമായ ചെമ്മീനിനു ശരിയായ മാർക്കററില്ലാത്തതുനിമിത്തം കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു കൊല്ലങ്ങളായി ക്രമത്തിലധികം നഷ്ടം നേരിട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ചരക്കിന് ഇപ്പോൾ റെംഗൂൺ ഒരു മാർക്കററുമാത്രമേയുള്ളു. പുതിയ മാർക്കററുകൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാതെ ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു വ്യത്യാസം വരുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ ബർമ്മാ, ചൈനാ, ജപ്പാൻ മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചരിച്ചു ചെമ്മീനും നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടാകുന്ന മററു മത്സ്യങ്ങളും ചിലവാകുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങളും അന്വേഷിച്ചറിയുന്നതിനു ഗവർമ്മെന്റു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വ്യവസായങ്ങളും കൃഷികളും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുപ്രയോജനപ്പെടുന്ന രണ്ടു പദ്ധതികൾ-അതായതു സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസക്കോഡും Land Colonisation Scheme-ഉം ഇവരണ്ടും ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന്റെ ആലോചനയിലിരിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങീട്ടു കാലം കുറെ കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അവയെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതിന് ഈ അവസരത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെന്റ് വിനിയോഗിക്കുമെന്നും വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു

PRESIDENT: We have only less than an hour before us. The Financial Secretary would at least need half an hour for his reply. I am afraid I am unable to give all the official members time to reply to the criticisms made by the various non-officials in their speeches. The officials must take only such chances as they may find in the course of the budget motions to answer as far as possible the criticisms which have been made in the course of the discussion by the non-official members. But, I think, in fairness to the Chief Engineer, Mr. Natesa Aiyar, against whom some personal attacks have been made in the course of the discussion, I should give him an opportunity to explain briefly his position. After he has explained his position, I will call upon the Financial Secretary to make his reply.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, the criticisms and suggestions which some of the members have offered—

[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I rise to a point of order? Rules 47 (2) and 48 (2), read together, show that, after the discussion of the budget, the Financial Secretary alone is to reply. That is, after the whole discussion is over, there is no provision in the rules for any official member to reply except the Financial Secretary.

PRESIDENT: Rule 48 (1) says that the *Council* shall be at liberty to discuss the budget. It does not exclude official members. Discussion therefore means discussion by official members also. The rule only prescribes the order in which the Financial Secretary is to reply; that is to say, his reply should come last.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): If that interpretation is accepted, I submit that the non-officials are at a disadvantage.

PRESIDENT: On the contrary, they are at a distinct advantage. All the non-officials have been able to speak, whereas the officials are not able to reply to the criticisms—some of which are very severe. One would like to have a full explanation from the official members. The non-official side has exhausted its criticisms.

MR. C SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): It would have been better if the officials---

PRESIDENT: Well, that is my ruling.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, the criticisms and suggestions which some of the members have offered on the working of the P. W. D. mainly relate to the desirability of reducing the allotments for buildings, new and incomplete, and the necessity for increasing the allotments for communications, for protective irrigation and for the restoration of communications, etc., damaged by the recent unprecedentedly heavy rains and floods in the low country. A few of the members have also stated that the establishment continues to be excessive or at any rate does not stand in any need of additional staff to cope with the heavy and urgent works necessitated by rain and flood damages.

The damages to communications and flood-banks caused by the rains and floods we have had in the third week of July have been immense. The damaged flood-banks of the Pazhayar are being restored rapidly. The damaged flood-banks of the Kallada have been arranged to be restored and strengthened as soon as the floods in the river would permit. It is also under consideration to cut a new outlet for the flood-waters of the Chittumala lake and valley so that they may not overflow into the fields of East Kallada and damage them by submergence.

Through communications wherever interrupted are being rapidly restored. The damages on the Main Central Road have been repaired as soon as the floods subsided and through traffic has been rendered possible from the 31st July, 1924, from Kottarakara to Kottayam and beyond.

The heavy slips which fell on the 50th to the 53rd miles of the Quilon-Shencottah road on both sides of the Ariyankavu pass are being

rapidly removed and the road is being reconstructed where it was washed down at the 6th furlong of the 52nd mile. Through communications will be restored here in another two weeks.

The heavy slips which fell on the Kottayam-Kumili road in the Ghat section from Mundakkayam to Kumili have all been rapidly removed with the co-operation of the planting estates. There was a subsidence at the 42nd mile where a cart track along one side and a temporary bridge are being provided and expected to be ready in about a week. A portion of the 45th mile with two bridges and one culvert got buried under mountain slides from both sides of the valley and here a new road is being aligned and traced. It is expected that it will take about two months to restore cart traffic in this place. There have been indescribable damages to roads and bridges on all the routes leading to Munnar in the High Ranges. Rapid restoration has been arranged for and it is reported that a sum of not less than two lakhs of rupees would be needed for the purpose.

As regards the inadequacy of the allotment of one lakh of rupees for the work of restoration of damaged communications, etc., in the low country, I may say that the amount provided is only tentative, as full and detailed reports have not been received as yet. If more is needed the department will not be slow to apply to the Government for additional funds.

Some of the members seem to be still under the impression that the establishment in the department is excessive and can either be retrenched or expected to spend more without sacrificing efficiency. I have explained the real position in my speech in the last budget session (*vide* pages 166 to 172 of Vol. III, No. 3) and in the departmental Administration Report for 1098 which has been printed and made available to the members.

The department as now reorganised is expected to cope only with a normal grant of Rs. 27 to 28 lakhs, of which the establishment charge is only about Rs. 4¾ lakhs, *i. e.* only about 17 per cent., against the 20 per cent. limit allowed in the G. O. No. P. W. 6640 A, dated the 20th October, 1910. Though intensive work is possible occasionally, it is not possible to expect the department to spend more without additional staff, temporary or permanent. During the years 1096 and 1097, when the outlay was a little more than Rs. 32 lakhs, prior to the reorganisation and retrenchment effected in the staff, the outlay in each executive Division, Sub-division and Section was on an average about Rs. 5·3 lakhs, Rs. 1·9 lakhs, and Rs. ·55 lakh respectively per annum. After the reorganisation, the outlay has not been less comparatively. It was about Rs. 5·34 lakhs, Rs. 1·9 lakhs, and Rs. ·57 lakh respectively in 1098. In 1099 it is expected to be Rs. 5·6 lakhs, Rs. 2·0 lakhs and Rs. ·6 lakh, respectively; and in 1100 as budgeted for normal works, it stands at about the same figures.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai compared the outlays in 1096 and 1097 with the grant for 1100. I have analysed the figures and found that the average outlay in 1096 and 1097 has been Rs. 32·23 lakhs. The grant for

[Mr. Joseph Panjikarn.]

1100 is Rs. 29·15 lakhs including the Delhi Palace and the Railway, but excluding the special grant of Rs. 3 lakhs provided for restoration of damaged communications, etc. Analysing the works by service heads, the grant for buildings has been reduced from Rs. 5·7 lakhs to Rs. 3·2 lakhs or by Rs. 2·5 lakhs; that for reproductive Kodayar Project Works from Rs. 1·20 lakhs to Rs. ·48 lakh, or by Rs. ·72 lakh; and that for tools and plant from Rs. 1·03 lakhs to Rs. ·65 lakh or by Rs. ·38 lakh, making a total reduction of about Rs. 3·60 lakhs on the above heads alone. There is not much cause for regret in the above reductions. The grant for communications for 1100 is about Rs. 7 lakhs against the average outlay of Rs. 7·5 lakhs in 1096 and 1097; and that for protective irrigation has been increased to Rs. 1·02 lakhs from the average outlay of Rs. ·15 lakh in 1096 and 1097. Out of this total grant of about Rs. 7 lakhs for communications (new and incomplete works) more than 50 per cent. is allotted for the Kottayam and the Alwaye Public Works Divisions which may be said to serve the needs of North Travancore. Regarding the needs of the Shertallai taluk, a new Section was created there during the year and the works in and about Shertallai were transferred to the jurisdiction and control of Mr. John Kurien, Executive Engineer at Kottayam. He has reported that he is doing—

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know the reason why the Kattachira bridge was not constructed this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Kurien has reported that he is doing all that is possible in the matter of improving communications in and about Shertallai. He hopes to complete the bridge at Kattachira and the work on the Tannirmukkam road before February next and the work of regravelling the town roads early in 1100.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Panjikaran wants to know why the bridge was not constructed this year.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): All that is possible has been done this year.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): For how many years has the bridge been under construction?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The work was started in the latter part of 1097 or early in 1098.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was there not a specific assurance last year that the work would be completed this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): There was no such assurance on my part. The work will be completed as early as possible.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): When was the work of the bridge commenced this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The work was being continued this year and was proceeding during the whole of the dry weather.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What was the progress this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): An expenditure of Rs. 4,375 has been incurred on the work to the end of Edavam in the current year.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know what the total estimate for the construction of the bridge is?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I do not remember the figures separately, as the road and bridge are combined in one estimate.

PRESIDENT: You are exceeding your time-limit.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have only just begun and I must be allowed to have my full say. (*Laughter*)

Cutting a new canal along the line of the Puttantodu, from Vembanad lake to the interior south of Tannirmukkam, was began and work to the extent of Rs. 5,000 was done during the last dry weather. The work on the Shertallai-Arattunkal road has been started and material collection is in progress.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How much money has been spent on the Arattunkal road and how many miles have been constructed?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Kurien has reported that the work on this sandy path can make only slow progress owing to the difficulty of transport.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*); I want a ruling from the Chair. If I am not out of order, I must have an answer. The Chief Engineer has not answered my question. I want an answer to the question how much money has been spent on the Arattunkal road.

PRESIDENT: You should not expect him to know the money value of each item of work done by the department.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The budget allotment for communications in the Shertallai taluk for the year 1100 is Rs. 54,500 which is the largest grant allotted to any taluk. No other taluk except Tiruvalla approaches it.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether any amount allotted for the works in the Shertallai taluk has been surrendered?

PRESIDENT: It will not be known now as the year has not yet ended.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know—

PRESIDENT: Mr. Panjikaran is in possession of the House. He is putting a question.

[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know how much is expected to be spent this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): In Shertallai?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Yes.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) It is given in the printed budget. We cannot rely on that because it is only the *probable* expenditure. For gravelling the town roads, the probable expenditure is Rs. 3,500; for the Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road it is Rs. 5,000; and for the Alleppey-Shertallai canal it is Rs. 33,400 and for the Puttantodu it is about Rs. 5,500 etc.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): That is not my question. My question is, how much money is expected to be spent for Shetallai?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): It is the probable expenditure in 1099 reported by the Executive Engineer and provided in the revised estimate printed in the budget for 1100.

I need only add that Mr. Kurien who is one of the best officers in the department can be trusted to do whatever is needed and possible in that taluk. He has recommended the starting of relief works near Alleppey, Kottayam and Shertallai and these have been approved.

With regard to the remarks made by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, regarding the misconduct of some subordinates of the department, I might say that the report of the Chief Engineer against the then Subdivision Officer and Section Officer, who were responsible for overmeasurement and overpayment of the excise building works done at Arukutty, was sent up to Government about a year ago. The misconduct of the Cantonment Section Officer referred to by the member has not been reported to the Chief Engineer. An enquiry has now been made and it is reported that there was some delay on his part in realising the proceeds of the auction sales of surveyed materials and in remitting the same to the treasury. The Section Officer has already been transferred to far away Todupuzha for other reasons and the matter now reported will be properly dealt with.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether Supervisor Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar, who was in charge of the excise building works at Arukutty, is still in service?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already said that a report has been made to the Government against the then Sub-division Officer and the Section Officer.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Any action taken?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The matter was reported to the Government a year ago and is pending with them.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar is still kept in service?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): He is now on leave.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did Mr. Natesa Aiyar recommend the suspension of Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar from service for misappropriation of Government money?

PRESIDENT: You are assuming that the Supervisor misappropriated funds when you put the further question whether Mr. Natesa Aiyar has recommended his suspension.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was there not a charge against him?

PRESIDENT: There is already the answer that the matter was reported to the Government a year ago.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the nature of the report?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): It is a voluminous file containing over two hundred pages. I cannot say now. It is one year since the report was made. I believe it was a subject of interpellation and the Government member in charge will be able to say at what stage the matter is.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it usual to keep an officer in service when it is found that there is a charge of corruption against him?

PRESIDENT: There again you assume that he is corrupt. That has first to be made out.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Mr. Natesa Aiyar was speaking about two hundred pages of explanation, report, etc. Is it the explanation of the officer or the recommendation made by the Chief Engineer to Government that is 200 pages long?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): All the papers put together.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Are we to assume that he is unable to remember what exactly the recommendation is?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*). I referred to the report. I have already stated that the question is one of over-measurement and overpayment and the matter is pending with the Government and it is one year since the report was made.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Has the matter been pending with the Government for the last one year?

PRESIDENT: Yes. He has already said that it has been pending with the Government. The Chief Engineer is not obviously responsible.

[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The alleged over-measurement in the Neyyattinkara Section has been dealt with by the Executive Engineer himself. It is reported that the contractor was at fault in the matter and proper penalty has been inflicted.

Some members have suggested the reduction of allotments for new and incomplete works under buildings. It is not a good policy to linger on with the construction of the buildings already taken up and in progress. Only a sum of Rs. 2,11,270 has been allotted for them. They refer mainly to the several Government departments and more than a half relate to Educational and Medical buildings. Only a provision of Rs. 82,350 has been made for new buildings which cannot be said to be much.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has referred to the necessity for constructing a few roads in the Ambalapuzha taluk. The improvement of the road from Ambalapuzha to Takazhi has been provided for in the budget for 1100 and a sum of Rs. 3,000 has been allotted (*vide* item 84 of the detailed P. W. D. Budget Estimates under new works). As regards the extension of that road from Takazhi to Tiruvalla, two sections are already under maintenance. For the section from Chattankari to Nirattupuram, a representation has been received from a local association praying for the acquisition of land by Government and stating that the people would form the road embankment. Mr. Kurien has recommended after consulting the association that he would prefer the people to give the lands free, the department constructing the road. The matter is under consideration.

Regarding the raising of the low embankments on the Tiruvalla-Kottayam road referred to by the same member, some work has been done in the current year and provisions have been made in the budget for 1100 for raising the Idinjillam embankment and the Kodimata embankment (*vide* Incomplete Works item 135, Rs. 2,000, and item 139, Rs. 5.000).

PRESIDENT: Something was said by some of the members about the conduct of the Police at Vaikam. I think Mr. Krishna Pillai may have something to say in regard to it.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, Mr. Madhava Variar and others have referred, in their speeches, to the conduct of the Police at Vaikam. They have not specified the particular conduct they take exception to. I presume they refer to the various allegations made in newspapers against the Police at Vaikam in general and against me in particular. I may therefore be permitted to avail myself of this opportunity to explain the circumstances that led up to these allegations.

The complaint against the Police is that, after my taking charge, there has been a change of policy in the attitude of the Police towards the *Satyagrahis*, and that, in consequence they not only brutally

assaulted the volunteers, but also set up the *Savarna* Hindus to assault them. The following facts will show that these charges are unfounded and that if any *Savarna* has assaulted them, it is an individual attack and is the result of the insults offered to him by the volunteers.

Even towards the commencement of this movement, the *Savarnas* had approached Mr. Pitt and suggested that they might be permitted to send volunteers to prevent the *Satyagrahis* from entering the prohibited area. Mr. Pitt consulted the District Magistrate and advised them not to do it, as he thought it would bring about breaches of the peace. From what he said the *Savarnas* seem to have inferred that everything necessary for stopping the movement was being done by the Government and that their interference was not therefore wanted.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether Mr. Pitt has sent any report to the Government to the effect that the *Savarnas* approached him with a request like that?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I am not aware.

In this belief they waited for three months, but did not see any active steps being taken as they wished to stop the movement. During these three months, the insults and inconveniences caused to them by the *Satyagrahis*, which I shall refer to in detail later on, were steadily increasing and had reached the bursting point. It was about this time that I went to the place on the 7th Mithunam, 1099.

Here I may be permitted to explain the circumstances which necessitated my going to Vaikam.

PRESIDENT: You should not exceed your time.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Some time after it was started, the *Satyagraha* movement lost its novelty and the people of the place began to ignore it altogether. There were none to turn and even look at the volunteers offering *Satyagraha*, and their coming and standing there every day uncared for began to be felt by them. They then started sending lady volunteers to attract attention and even this failed to have the desired effect after a few days. It was then that they thought of their *charka* and spinning.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are not lady volunteers going for *Satyagraha* even now?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

This was started towards the beginning of Mithunam. As they kept the charka on the road and caused obstruction to it, it was objected to by the Police. But the *Satyagrahis* are Congressmen as well and their creed is non-co-operation and disobedience. It has been my experience with them that they always make it a point to disobey all directions of the Police in the most unreasonable fashion. Agreeably to this creed of theirs, they not only refused to stop spinning on the road, but also

[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

started doing it with additional vigour. For, they brought a singing party also, and these stood around the *charka* and began to sing hoarsely in the most annoying manner. I may here be permitted to add that the spirit in which they did all this was this: "You did not want us to spin the *charka* on the road. We are now spinning and singing. Let us see what you are going to do." This spinning and singing into the ears of the Police had the desired effect. For, it attracted large crowds, probably to see the discomfiture of the Police and enjoy the fun. It became impossible to use the road by the public and the shop-keepers on either side began to complain bitterly that their business was at a standstill. The Police could not continue their policy of non-interference any longer and it became their bounden duty to stop the obstruction caused to the road.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether there was any written complaint from the merchants?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): How many complaints have been received?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Petitions.

Under Section 35 of the Police Regulation, they are bound to interpose to prevent the commission of a non-cognizable offence, if committed in their view. It can be prevented in two ways. Either they can use force and push away the *persons* that cause the obstruction, or leaving the persons alone, remove the *things* that cause the obstruction. The Police adopted the latter course, to avoid using force on the persons, and it was thus that they began to remove the *charka*. This was not, however, allowed by the volunteers, and they began to offer resistance, quite contrary to their creed.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether these *charkas* were produced before the Magistrate?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

It must be noted here that, at this particular time, there were no proper leaders in the *Satyagraha* camp. It was only after the leaders reached the spot on the 9th Mithunam 1099 that the resistance was stopped and from that time forward there has been no complaint that the Police caused violence to the *Satyagrahis*. If then some force had to be used for taking away the *charka*, it was because the volunteers offered resistance to their being taken away. The Police had to take them away in spite of the resistance offered. I would leave it to the members to decide how it could be done without using some force. In this connection some pushing also became inevitable and all this has been grossly exaggerated into sqeezing testicles, fisting and other things. All along

the Police were only trying to avoid any sort of interference with the *Satyagrahis*. If they interfered this time, it was because they could not avoid it consistently with their duty. To understand the position clearly, I would transfer the scene from Vaikam to Trivandrum. Supposing the *Satyagrahis* stand at the Eastern Fort gate trying to enter the Fort and are stopped there by the Police, and they also place a *charka* in the middle of the road in front and allow half a dozen others to stand around it and sing while one is spinning at it, I would ask whether the Police would not be found fault with, if they did not take action and remove the obstruction. There is therefore no justification for finding fault with the Police or for accusing me of introducing a change of policy. It was the change in the programme of work of the *Satyagrahis* that necessitated the interference referred to above. If they had stuck to their old programme, there would have been no Police interference either. Whether there is change of policy or not, the complaint against the Police will be there. It was not absent during the time of Mr. Pitt. Then also there were complaints that Kurur Namburippad, Chittodattu Sanku Pillai and others were assaulted by the Police and *Savarnas*. And crime No. 54/96 of Vaikam station for assaulting the *Satyagrahis* on the 27th Medam 1098 was taken up for investigation during his time.

As I said before, this decision to remove the *charkas* was come to towards the beginning of Mithunam. It appeared in the papers, and when I saw the Dewan on the 5th Mithunam 1099 he asked me what the new trouble was at Vaikam about the *charka*. I told him what I then knew of it and he wanted me to go to the spot and see for myself whether there was any necessity for impressing the *charka*. It was this that necessitated my going to Vaikam. I left Trivandrum on the evening of the same day and reached Vaikam by the afternoon of the 7th *idem*. I had a conference with the District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Inspector, and we then came to the conclusion that *charkas* must be removed if they were kept on the road for spinning in the manner described above.

The next point that requires explanation is the fact that the *anti-Satyagraha* movement was started on the 10th Mithunam 1099 while I was there. For, it is suspected that I was the cause of it. While I admit that some replies that I gave to the *Savarna* Hindus who came to represent their grievances on the 8th *idem* might have induced them to start the movement, I must disclaim all knowledge of their intention to start it. Had I known it then, I would have requested them at least to postpone starting it by a day, so that I might get away from the place. After having gone to Vaikam to see about the *charka* affair, I wanted to finish the inspection of the Station also.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know what is the nature of the reply that he gave to the *Savarna* Hindus? I would also request him to speak a little louder. We cannot follow him.

[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Pillai, you may come nearer, if necessary and read.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was any noise made by the *charkas* during Mr. Pitt's time?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I started the examination of the records from the 7th Mithunam 1099. My intention was to visit the Station on the morning of Monday the 10th for kit Inspection and drill and leave Vaikam that afternoon. The anti-movement was started on the morning of the 10th, while I was inspecting the Station. If I am credited with ordinary prudence and common sense, I cannot be expected to have arranged for its starting on the 10th itself before my leaving the place. The fact was that the *Savarnas*, as a result of the answers I said I had given them, were dissatisfied with the stand I had taken and did not want to take me into their confidence. And the result was that they started it at once, without any regard for me or for the awkward positions which they were going to place me in. All I can say is that it was most unfortunate and that it was not open to me to control my fortunes. I shall now explain the circumstances which precipitated their action.

This anti-movement is the direct result of the conduct of the *Satyagrahis* towards the *Savarnas* during the past months.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): What is that particular conduct?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I am coming to that. The cumulative effect was there. The insults and inconveniences the *Satyagrahis* had offered had reached the bursting point at the time of my visit. On hearing of my arrival, some of the leaders came to see me. The first question they asked me was, if I was prepared to adopt any effective methods to stop the *Satyagraha* movement at least then. For, they seem to have been under the impression that Government would come out with some such method soon and were becoming impatient of the delay. I had no cut and dry methods to stop the movement and I could not possibly give them any false hopes. I told them so, and this answer, I now guess, must have precipitated their decision to start their movement. There was yet another cause. The next point they spoke to me about was that I must at least prevent the *Satyagrahis* from insulting them. I asked them what the nature of the insults was. They enumerated a number of them. After listening to them I had to tell them that it was not possible for me to stop those insults, as they were not such as could be taken cognizance of by the Police. One example will illustrate my position. One of their complaints was that the *Satyagrahis* went round the streets in procession in large numbers with flags and singing songs. When they reach the gates of *anti-Satyagrahis* they halt there and begin yelling out *kee jai*. It may be argued that there is nothing insulting in this. But any one who has had experience of this *kee jai* could easily understand

how insulting it is, especially when it is done at the gates of the house of an *anti-Satyagrahi* where the ladies also live. Perhaps a *Satyagrahi* can be expected to take it as an honour, but when such a thing is done to an *anti-Satyagrahi*, it can only be taken as an insult. Another complaint was that when they and their children are met on the roads they address them as "സുഗ്രീവന്മാരെ."

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether this address was made by the *Satyagrahis* or others?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): *Satyagrahis*.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is it so reported or is it his experience?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): That was what I gathered from the enquiry I made. Now, it was these things that they wanted me to prevent. From the experience I had of the *Satyagrahis* and their studied disobedience to all instructions given by the Police, I told them that if I interfered in those matters and advised the *Satyagrahis* to stop them, it would only make matters worse and therefore it was not advisable for me to interfere in those things. Here it is well to remember what the *Satyagrahis* did when the Police asked them not to place the *charka* on the road and it is experience of this kind that induced me to give this reply. I gave these replies without suspecting in the least that there was an idea of starting an *anti-Satyagraha* movement. For, at this time, I did not know that these people had made a proposal of the kind to Mr. Pitt and had dropped it on his advice and under the full belief that the Government would do all that in their opinion was needed to put a stop to the *Satyagraha* movement.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether Mr. Krishna Pillai has direct information about the proposal having been made to Mr. Pitt?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Not from Mr. Pitt. This information, I got subsequently, not from the *anti-Satyagrahis*, but from the District Magistrates and from my subordinates who were at the spot.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that it was Mr. Pitt who offered this proposal to the *anti-Satyagrahis* at Vaikam, to go and offer resistance in the place where the Police were kept at the barricade.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): My information is that it was the other way.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I was present when he made the proposal.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Had I known that there was a possibility of such an anti-movement coming into existence and that so soon, I would certainly have at least refrained from giving the answers for the time being.

[President.]

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know when the Police Commissioner returned from Vaikam?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): 10th afternoon, according to my original programme. It is therefore that I said before that it was my misfortune that started the thing when I was there and that I had no control over the same.

I am certain that the supporters of the *Satyagraha* movement in and outside this Council would refuse to believe that the *Satyagraha* volunteers are capable of offering insults to the *Savarnas*, or for that matter, to any body. For, these volunteers are considered to be *Gandhies* in miniature and that, therefore, their conduct is flowing in milk and honey towards not only *Savarnas* but also towards the public in general. I may be permitted to assure the members that it is not so. The volunteers are recruited largely from runaways and do-nothings and failures in education.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I bring to his notice that some of the very best men in the country have been volunteers?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I said *largely*.

They join this chiefly on account of the free meal and clothing they get and the free vent they can give to the exuberance of their spirit. The prospect of insulting and disobeying the Police and constituted authority is another motive which is perhaps even stronger than any given above. For, the moment they join the movement they become conscious of all the strength of the Congress movement behind them and begin to show defiance of all authority. I shall give here only one instance of such behaviour in support of my statement. The District Superintendent, Kottayam, and myself were going along the western road westward to the travellers' bungalow. We saw one of the volunteers coming eastward at some distance. He read out the contents of a notice which he had in his hand when he was at some distance from us. The notice was about a meeting they were going to have that evening. On hearing him the District Superintendent thought that he heard the names of two persons on whom notices had been served also included, in the list of speakers. So when the volunteer approached us, the District Superintendent stepped forward and bending himself asked him: "Let me see the notice." As soon as he did this the volunteer quickly drew his hand with the notice to his back and walked on without even turning and looking at the District Superintendent of Police. It must be noted that the District Superintendent was in his uniform and that his discomfiture at the time raised a laughter from the by-standers.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know what is the disobedience involved?

PRESIDENT: It is no disobedience. He says *discomfiture*.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): That may be. It is not disobedience.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Under ordinary circumstances this boy would not have the courage to behave in that fashion. I would, in this connection, request the members to consider what effect such open defiance will have on the rowdies and how the Police will be able to keep down rowdyism if they are thus openly insulted and their authority set at naught. The District Superintendent had to come away quietly after this incident. Such is the spirit in which these volunteers are offering *satyagraha* at Vaikam. I would leave it to the members of the Council to judge for themselves how a volunteer of this mentality who did not hesitate to insult even a District Superintendent in uniform so openly, can be expected to behave towards the *Savarnas* who are working against them.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether any acts of rowdyism have been brought to the notice of the Police, and if so, whether any action has been taken?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They were not reported to have done any forcible act. But everything they could do to bring about violence from others, they were doing by way of words and gestures.

They are supposed to be melting the hearts of the oppositionists by their non-violence, forbearance and sufferings. Those who have seen them more closely know that they are doing just the reverse.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They are trying their level best to generate hatred and bitterness of feelings amongst the oppositionists, and I may assure the Council that, in spite of all the meetings and the paperreports they are having, the support for their cause from *Savarnas* is not on the increase, but is decidedly on the decrease. It cannot be otherwise, so long as the conduct of the volunteers remains as it is now. I have my own experience of them.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): How did he come to that conclusion?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): It is the result of enquiries. But I do not wish to try the patience of the Council by an enumeration of all those insults which the *Savarnas* are experiencing at the hands of the *Satyagrahis*. They insult *Savarnas* who try to go to the temple without being polluted. They hamper students who do not wear *Khadar*. They insult school-going girls of the opposite party by laughing and making gestures. In the eyes of their supporters, they can do no wrong.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): He seems to infer that anti-*Satyagrahis* are increasing in number and sympathisers are decreasing in number.

PRESIDENT: He did not at all say anything like that so far a I remember.

[Mr. K. George].

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): That is what I recollected from his statement.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, it will not be possible for me in the short time at my disposal to reply fully to all the points that have been raised, in the course of discussion, by my non-official friends during these two days. Unfortunately my colleagues on this side of the House have not had sufficient opportunity to explain matters relating to their own departments. Nevertheless I am obliged to confine my remarks to questions of a general nature which have been raised in the course of the discussion.

One matter that has loomed very large in this year's discussion is the recent flood and its effect on our finances. Some of the members have taken a very pessimistic view of the situation. They would have us abandon the ordinary activities of the Government and make deep cuts in the allotments provided for expenditure next year. Some would go even to the length of suspending the increments of the officials that accrue next year.

Sir, it seems to me that these suggestions are somewhat panicky. It is pardonable that those who come from the affected areas should feel strongly about the disaster and should, perhaps naturally, take an exaggerated view of the situation. But I do not think that our position is so serious as to call for these desperate remedies. I think my friends Mr. Velu Pillai and Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai have taken the correct view in this matter. It would be an extremely unwise step if, on account of the flood, we were to abandon our normal activities next year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know who were the members that suggested that normal activities would have to be postponed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Several members suggested that.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Financial Secretary be able to name one such member?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The first speaker, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, himself said that.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I be permitted to give my explanation? I never said that the normal activities of the departments must be suspended. I only said that expenditure should be incurred only in regard to the absolutely necessary items.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There had been speeches to the effect that provisions for incomplete works in the Public Works Department should be cut by half and that the provisions for new works should be omitted altogether. That was mentioned by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I point out that it is a misconception brought about by the speech of Mr. Velu Pillai?

PRESIDENT: You cannot explain what Mr. Velu Pillai said.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is only a misconception on the part of others. As a matter of fact, nobody said that the normal activities of the Government should be stopped.

PRESIDENT: I distinctly remember that some members said so. I think Father Vettikapalli said that not merely the normal activities should be stopped but that deep cuts should be made.

THE REV. FATHER VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): I said that deep cuts should be made, but not that the normal activities should be stopped.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Deep cuts mean the abandonment of several of our normal activities.

I say, the abandonment of our normal activities would be as much a disaster to the people as the flood itself. I agree with Mr. Mackie that our country possesses sufficient recuperative power to recover from the effects of the disaster of the floods soon. As I mentioned in my opening speech, it is true that we are not at present in a position to gauge the effects of the floods on our revenues and expenditure of this year and next year and these two years may probably close with a deficit. I did not at all mean thereby that our financial position has been rendered precarious by the floods. Were it so, I would not have waited for a discussion in the Council to do what was essential to avoid a financial collapse. On the other hand, Government have carefully considered the situation and have decided to go on with their usual programme of expenditure. Government have already dropped a few items of expenditure which can afford to be postponed to a more favourable year. But I repeat that it will be very unwise if we abandon any scheme which is urgent or which is in the full swing of operation.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not the Financial Secretary say that he was "groping in the dark" with regard to expenditure?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I would request Mr. Hoogewerf to read my speech carefully. I said we were groping in the dark about the effects of the flood on our *revenue* next year and not on expenditure.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What could be done without revenue in the matter of expenditure?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter for argument.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I only said that I was not able to revise the estimates to suit the new conditions that have arisen.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When all the roads and bridges and several other things are under water, how can you make correct estimates?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That was just what I said. (*Laughter.*)

As I have already said, the deficits are only temporary and due to abnormal causes. There is absolutely no harm in such a case in meeting the deficits by drawing on our balances which are quite ample to meet our present requirements.

As regards the suggestions to suspend the increments of officials, I suppose it is not meant to be taken seriously. Whenever anything untoward happens or any extra money is to be found for anything, it is usual that our non-official friends want to put their hands into the pockets of the poor Government officials. The officials are also members of the general public of Travancore. In these floods a great many of them have suffered loss and they have also been liberal in subscribing to the various relief funds. It is hardly fair to compulsorily mulct them also of their increments, many of them small in amount, but all of them long waited for.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): It is only the increments that have to be suspended.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I say it is hardly fair to deprive them of their increments.

One or two members said that the amounts we have provided for the repair of the flood damages—

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does the suspension of the increments of the officials mean the suspension of the normal activities of the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I did not say so.

One or two members said that the amounts we have provided for the repair of flood damages and the issue of agricultural loans are insufficient. As regards the former, I have said in my speech that we shall, if necessary, provide additional funds for the purpose. In regard to agricultural loans, we have on the whole provided Rs. 5½ lakhs for the purpose. That is all that I think we may be able to spend during the course of a year, however much we may try, even if we have a special agency for distributing these loans. Even here if the amount is not found adequate there will be no difficulty to provide additional funds.

Mr. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran mentioned that the loans should be available for the reconstruction of houses and huts. I may inform him that the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation makes provision for the loans being used for that purpose as well.

Sir, every year a great deal is said about the critical position of the finances. Many have been predicting a financial crash; but I am

thankful to say that we are still surviving and the fulfilment of these gloomy predictions is being postponed from year to year.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it not by imposition of fresh taxes?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not here refer to the question of fresh taxes. Every year a prediction is made that we are sure to collapse, and every year we are found to be surviving.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is it not a fact that every year new taxes are added?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think so.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know who it was that predicted such collapse?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The tone of the speeches in all past budget sessions indicated that.

Reference was made by more than one member to the apparent inconsistency between my Appropriation Report and my budget speech. A careful reading of both will, I think, remove this misapprehension. In my Appropriation Report, I referred to the past tendency of expenditure progressing more rapidly than revenue and pointed out the necessity for caution. I had also stated that, to ensure progress coupled with a sound financial position, our policy should be to strive to augment our revenue resources and to reduce the demand on them in all feasible directions. I would emphasise the words "reduce the demands on them in all feasible directions." That does not necessarily mean retrenchment. In my speech, I have said that, when our normal financial position now obscured by the catastrophic floods is restored, our financial position will be found to be not wanting in soundness or stability. In making this statement, I have of course assumed that we shall not in the meantime embark on extravagant schemes of expenditure; and I still maintain that our financial position is sufficiently safe and sound.

As regards increasing our resources without imposing additional taxation, that, Sir, is a proposition which will stagger any financier; for whatever revenue the Government get comes from the pockets of the people either by direct or by indirect taxation. In one sense, however, we can increase our income without taxation in the ordinary sense of the term, *viz.*, by trying to get a better return for our commercial services and undertaking more services of the same kind. At present we have three such services, *viz.*, the Kodayar Irrigation, the Anchal Department and the Railway. Practically none of these is now a paying concern. On the Kodayar Project we have spent already about Rs. 82 lakhs. But we are getting a yield which works out only at less than 1 per cent. on our investment. The Anchal Department is now working at a loss of about Rs. ½ a lakh every year. The actual deficit may be more when we take into account the cost of maintaining the

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Anchal buildings and interest on the capital we have invested. To make these two departments pay, we shall have to increase the vlaue of the services rendered—*i. e.*, increase the water cess in the case of the Kodayar Irrigation and increase the Anchal rates in the Anchal Department.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): കോതയാർ ഡിവിഷനിലുള്ള സത്രങ്ങളുടേയും ടി. ബി. കളുടേയും ചിലവുകൂടി പ്രോജക്ററിന്റെ "working expenses" ൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ? :

PRESIDENT: It is only your information.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I have worked it out. Rs. 33,000 on account of old maintenance charges has been deducted only this year. There seems to be some error in the calculation.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I would refer him to the Statistics Volume. The old maintenance charges were being reduced in all the previous years in the *pro forma* account.

PRESIDENT: If you have any doubt, Mr. Kumara Pillai, and if you want an explanation, you may go to the Financial Secretary or to the Chief Secretary who will explain it.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Anchal Department is being given credit for the work they do in the Savings Banks?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We have decided to give it.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether, in the calculation of the aggregate amount spent upon the Kodayar works, the interest on the yearly instalment of expenditure has been included?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Then it would be more than Rs. 82 lakhs.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): As regards the Anchal rates, my friend Mr. Raja Raja Varma referred to the high rates already existing, but if we compare the Anchal rates here with the Anchal rates in other places—the enhancement that has been made here is only a single cash on a card and two cash on a cover—we find that the rates here are very low. For example, if we refer to the rates prevailing in Cochin we find that the rates there are more than double. In British India the rates are even much higher. Therefore, as I said, we have to increase the water cess in the case of the Kodayar Irrigation and increase the Anchal rates. These are suggestions which I think will not be acceptable to this House.

In regard to Railways, we used to get some income out of it, but after the war was over owing to the heavy cost of renewals and repairs and the increase in the rate of interest on debentures the surplus was turned into a deficit and we had to meet the loss from our general revenues. There are, however, reasons to believe that the loss is only a passing phase and that we may get a fair income from our railways in normal times in future.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know why there was such a large fall in the income from railways in the first part of the year and such a big increase in the second part of the year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I will answer that question when I speak with reference to Mr. Mackie's question about it on Saturday.

We have, however, to remember that we have no direct hand in the management of the railways and that we have no means of increasing its earning or reducing the working expenses.

As for going in for new projects of a reproductive character, it has to be remembered that such works will involve heavy capital expenditure and it will be simply out of the question to think of financing them from our normal revenues or from our balances. My friend Mr. Kumara Pillai says that loans are a dangerous snare and should be avoided as the plague. I am afraid his views are antiquated. The principle of financing reproductive works with borrowed money is one that is followed by all civilised Governments. Just as no large business is possible except with borrowed capital, so also, no large reproductive scheme, whether irrigation, railway or electric scheme, can be undertaken without the help of loan money. Of course, borrowing for the purpose of meeting current expenditure or for financing doubtful or unprofitable schemes is highly objectionable. No one will advocate it as a general policy. Mr. Kumara Pillai will have us take a lesson from Mysore as to the danger of borrowing. I would, on the contrary, myself refer to Mysore as an example of a country which is getting a large income from reproductive works which they financed from loans. I have got figures which show that they get about 36 lakhs of rupees as income from two or three works, namely, the electrical scheme, Krishna Raja Sagara Works and their railways, and the interest they pay on loans is negligible compared to their profits.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I only quoted the figures from the speeches of the Mysore Dewan. That is not my own.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Mysore Dewan perhaps referred to some of the schemes that have recently been started which may not be paying.

Whatever may be the ultimate fate of a few of their recent projects, there is no question that their railway, electrical and irrigation schemes are giving them an overflowing return and it will be well if we imitate them in this matter. But, to do so, people must place some

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confidence on the Government and should leave them some liberty of action.

Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai and one or two others have again referred to the necessity of separating the stable from the unstable sources of revenue, and have pointed out that this is being done in Mysore. I agree to it as a principle that recurring expenditure should not be increased on the basis of unstable income. But, as I have once before said, we have not many such items of unstable revenue. Except the settled land revenue, every kind of revenue is subject to fluctuations from year to year and therefore more or less unstable. In Travancore the only item of revenue which will disappear ultimately is what we realise by sale of Government lands. But even there it is stable enough for all practical purposes. We have still extensive tracts of unoccupied lands and the people are slow in taking them up. It will be several years before we exhaust them and during this period we are sure to get a regular and steady income from this source. There is no special advantage, therefore,—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): For how many years could we expect income from that source, approximately?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I cannot prophecy. But I can say that we could expect that for not less than a decade.

There is no special advantage, therefore, in leaving this revenue out of account in our calculation. The case of Mysore is, I think, different. There is a special item of revenue there which is of an uncertain character, *viz.*, the revenue from Mysore Assigned Tract. Sometimes this gives them quite a large windfall, but at other times the revenue is small. At any rate, it was found that they could not depend on it for regulating their expenditure. Apart from this, I do not think they have treated any other important item of revenue as unstable. Strictly speaking, abkari revenue is unstable, and with the progress of education and the temperance and prohibition movements, it may ultimately disappear from the budgets of many of the Governments in India. But no one now dreams of classifying it as unstable revenue and leaving it out of account for the purpose of regulating expenditure.

As usual, the expenditure on salaries came in for much criticism. The criticisms were of two kinds. One was that the salaries paid to some of the superior officers were quite excessive. No specific cases were quoted. On the other hand it has been urged even by some of the members that they were of opinion that the pay of some of the officers was low and should be increased. Another line of criticism taken was that the services were overmanned. Sir, in this matter of expenditure on salaries the officials and non-officials naturally hold very different and even irreconcilable views. That, however, is not peculiar to Travancore. The same criticism is levelled against all Governments in India and probably elsewhere also. Recently this criticism was made in the Mysore Council. Whatever the official side may say on the question, it

is likely to come up again and again and we cannot hope to finally lay it to rest. But I would take leave to say this, *viz.*, that it is not fair to the Government to accuse it of deliberately exploiting the tax-payer or even of being unmindful of his interests in order to pamper to the services. Government have already explored various avenues of retrenchment and, as the House knows, they have effected a substantial reduction in the number of appointments in the recent reorganisations.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know the extent of the retrenchment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That was given in a reply to an interpellation. I have not got the figures ready to hand.

If appointments have increased it was due to unawoidable causes, and it was done mostly in departments which have developed since. Every departmental head knows thoroughly well what difficulty he has to experience to get even a peon or watcher for his department. First he has to satisfy the Administrative Secretariat. Then the Financial Department will try to put a spoke in his wheel and finally he has to run the gauntlet of the ever-vigilant Finance Committee and ultimately of this House, so much so that no departmental head ventures to make a proposal for increased establishment if he can help it. So much as regards the creation of new appointments. Turning to reduction of existing appointments, I must say that it is not a fair charge to make that heads of departments would like to increase the number of their subordinates either for reasons of prestige or patronage. In the last reorganisation, very substantial reductions were made in the establishments of several departments so much so that several departments have since complained of the lack of sufficient hands to carry on their regular work. In this connection we have to bear in mind one or two things, *viz.*, (i) the increase in the activities of the Government, and (ii) the increasing complications of Government work on account of the increase of rules and regulations and I may add also on account of the inauguration of the present Council. As I have stated on previous occasions the Government do not deny that a few appointments may be reduced; but the reduction will not amount to much. It is seen that our total budget provision for 1100 on account of salaries is about 77½ lakhs of rupees. On an analysis of this expenditure it is seen that out of this the Education Department absorbs Rs. 25 lakhs and the Medical and Sanitary Departments Rs. 4½ lakhs. In regard to these departments their usefulness to the public mainly depends on the number of hands they employ. Then the Judicial Department gets Rs. 9·11 lakhs and the Development Departments Rs. 1·55 lakhs. These four departments together cost about Rs. 40 lakhs, and as regards these departments, substantial reduction either in the number of their officers or their pay is not generally urged. On the other hand in a few instances the demand has been to improve the pay and prospects of the members of these departments. Then our Military and Devaswom Departments and His Highness the Maha

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Raja's stables spend over Rs. 4½ lakhs. In these departments it is impracticable to supply the pruning knife. Then all the remaining departments together spend about 33 lakhs of rupees. Such being the case, how can we bring about any substantial reduction in these departments, at any rate, such reductions as will set free sufficient funds to help us in schemes of development?

Reference has been made to the high cost of education in Travancore. This is due to the fact that in Travancore a large number of educational institutions from primary schools to colleges are departmental, whereas, in other places, like British India and Mysore, a great share in this matter is borne by municipalities and local boards. Our schools are therefore more costly.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Why should not the Government reduce expenditure by handing over more departmental schools to private agencies?

PRESIDENT: If people come forward and offer to conduct some of the schools, Government will only be too glad to hand them over to them.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In Travancore, people want the Government to undertake all educational expenditure, and when proposals are made to transfer some departmental schools to private agency, there is stout opposition to such proposals.

I shall now refer to some of the specific matters raised in the discussion.

Several of the members urged a revision of the Interportal Trade Convention with the British Government. As regards this I have only to say thus much. The terms of the Cochin Harbour agreement which is no longer a confidential document will show how practically with very little expenditure we have secured most of the advantageous which are sought to be secured by a problematical revision of the Interportal Convention. This agreement was published in the *Government Gazette* in October, 1923.

Reference was also made to our disadvantageous position in the matter of tea duty. The arrangement about it is this. We collect the full duty on tea that is exported to foreign countries through British Indian ports, but pay half of the duty thus realised to the British Government. The reason for this is that the British Government have a claim to levy full duty on the tea exported through their ports. Had it not been for this arrangement what would have happened is that the tea produced in our country would have had to bear a double duty, which would have placed the Travancore tea at a serious disadvantage in foreign markets. That would have affected the tea trade, one of the most flourishing trades in this country, very much.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does not the Interportal Convention authorise the levy of duty on tea exported?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think the Interportal Convention deals with exports.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does it not enable us to realise duty on goods exported from Travancore?

PRESIDENT: It does not prohibit the British Government from levying duty at their ports.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Just as in the case of other articles exported from Travancore, why not we levy a duty on tea also?

PRESIDENT: It is not all our articles exported that are liable to duty in British India. There are articles in British India on which duty is levied on export. As a matter of fact they are levying export duty on tea grown elsewhere in India.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): As a compromise, it was arranged that we take half and give the remaining half to the British Government.

Reference was also made to the necessity of getting a rebate in respect of opium. Government have not been idle about it. The matter is under correspondence with the British Government. In this connection I would mention one fact that has not been referred to by the members, *viz.*, the rebate on ganja. Recently by the efforts of the Government we have succeeded in getting a rebate on ganja to a much larger extent than in the past. That is likely to bring us an increase of about half a lakh of rupees every year.

My friend Mr. Madhava Variar referred to the question of employment of foreigners in Travancore and criticised the present rules in our Service Regulation about the law of domicile. Government have already taken up the question about the revision of the rules in the Service Regulation and the matter has been referred to Mr. Subba Aiyar.

MR. T. Kumara Pillai quoted some figures to show that our resources are being depleted year by year. I believe by *Nikkiyirippu* he meant the State cash balance.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I meant the opening balance.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I should like to know what exactly he meant by that.

PRESIDENT: He says he meant the opening balance.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The opening balance may mean the balance in the Treasury or the difference between the assets and the liabilities of the Government which is shown in our balance sheet as "Government Balance." The two are altogether different. I should therefore like to know what exactly he meant.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): That explanation ought to be found in the Administration Report from which I got this information.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): If Mr. Kumara Pillai refers to the statement of assets and liabilities

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printed in the budget he will find the cash balance and Government balance separately shown. I would point out that our cash resources and other resources in bank deposits are much larger now than in the past.

Mr. Krishna Aiyar referred to some defects in the railway administration, and to the non-usage by the South Indian Railway of the rolling stock purchased by us for our line and Mr. Mackie also complained of the shortage of waggons. Mr. Mackie's remarks on these points last year were communicated to the Railway Company. I think it would be worth while to hear what they say about it. The Agent writes to say— I mean to read only the relevant portions from his letter.

"Mr. Mackie says that a large sum of money had been reported as having, in the previous year, been 'given to the South Indian Railway Company for providing new Rolling Stock'. The amount was Rs. 5,18,000, of which, however, only Rs. 96,282 was spent on Rolling Stock and the balance surrendered.

"During the year 75 B. C. G. and 4 B. V. were erected and put into use at a total cost of Rs. 8,73,872 for which amount had been voted previously. These wagons obviously cannot be confined to work over the Travancore State Section only, without considerably hampering the free interchange of traffic, and wagons paid for by the State do run over the rest of the system as do wagons paid for by the South Indian Railway over the Travancore State lines. A great number of these wagons owned by the State are however marked to run only over certain portions of the South Indian Railway, with which there is the bulk of the interchange traffic, so that they may be kept as far as possible for this traffic.

"Inadequate supplies of wagons. The total of stock of wagons belonging to the State is 394 (up to end of September 1923) and from statements I have had prepared, the numbers at stations on the State line average daily about half this number, no account being taken of wagons in transit on trains, which should account for the balance.

The demands at one time admittedly were in excess of the supplies, but more wagons have been obtained, and for some time past a careful watch has been kept over this matter and the actual loadings have been in excess of the demands."

"While on the subject of inadequacy of Rolling Stock, it will not be out of place to point out that in one respect this is absolutely correct. The number of engines belonging to the Travancore Railway is 19 and this number having been found quite inadequate for the needs of the line, has been supplemented by 11 engines from the South Indian Railway, making up the number of engines to 30 which is the figure that the Loco and Carr. Superintendent considers necessary for the working of the line, and this, without any charge for hire or otherwise to the State Section, so that it can hardly be argued with this outstanding instance appearing, that stock purchased by the State is systematically diverted for use elsewhere."

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it a fact that the Travancore Government is charged for two engines in the ghaut section?

PRESIDENT: You are not audible.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it a fact that the Travancore Government is charged for two engines in the ghaut section while as a matter of fact only one engine is being used?

PRESIDENT: For each train? No, there is no information.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Will the Financial Secretary be kind enough to put the relevant portions in a more understandable manner?

PRESIDENT: The reply by the South Indian Railway has to be read carefully before it is understood.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It will appear in the Proceedings of this Council

Mr. Mackie enquired and Mr. Hoogewerf also asked about the large difference between the results of the working of the Travancore Railway in the first half of the year 1923-24 and the second half. I have given one reason for the difference, *viz.*, that the interest charges were less in the second half-year than the first.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the member be pleased to place the whole reply from the South Indian Railway Company before this Council?

MR K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have read the relevant portions, and they will appear in the Council Proceedings. The Agent's letter deals with several other matters; they are not however confidential.

As regards the difference between the results in the working in the two half years, one reason is the difference in the amount of interest charged. Another reason is that there was a difference in the working expenses. As regards that, I am not in a position to say what was the cause which led to the difference. I am asking the Railway Company about it. But if I may make a guess, it may be due to the fact that for some years after the war they were incurring very heavy expenditure on renewals and replacements which were somewhat neglected during the war, and probably—I am only making a guess—on that account the expenditure might have become less and less as time went on.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does not the company provide for depreciation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think they provide.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is the Financial Secretary sure that no provision for depreciation is made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): So far as I know, they do not make any provision for depreciation.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that when the engines become useless we have to purchase fresh engines and that there will be no depreciation fund available for the purpose?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No, so far as I am aware.

My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar proposes that our sinking fund shoud be invested in agricultural loans. I am sure if he thinks seriously about it he will not advocate such a step. If we dissipate our sinking funds like that, a portion of it may be lost and the funds may not be available when we require it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does Mr. George mean to say that the agricultural loans as at present

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

utilised are likely to be lost, and, if so, who is responsible for giving out the loans ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That question does not arise here.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does he think that, if proper care is taken, the loans are likely to be lost, and, if so, are not the individuals who have been responsible for giving the loans responsible for the amounts also ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not say it *will be* lost. I only said that it was *liable* to be lost. I think it would be a very serious step to distribute the sinking funds as agricultural loans. If we dissipate our sinking funds like that, a portion of the amount may be lost and the funds may not be available when we require them. Therefore I think that the sinking funds should always remain in gilt-edged securities.

Mr. Krishna Aiyar also enquired as to what had become of the State-aided Bank, and whether it would share the fate of some of the other concerns for which Government have offered help. I hope it would not and, if it did so, it would not be the fault of the Government. We are now considering the memorandum and the articles of association which have been submitted by the Provisional Board.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know how much money has till now been subscribed ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Does he refer to the amounts actually paid in ?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): No, I mean the amounts promised.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not know. I am not on the board. We will take up the subject of the State-aided Bank as soon as the work in regard to this Council is over and Government will pass final orders on the question shortly.

Now I shall refer to one or two points raised by my friend Mr. Sankara Menon. One point is about the classification which we adopted in regard to military works. Now the change that has been made is this. The public works expenditure in the Military Department and the expenditure on pensions in that department, hitherto charged under two different major heads, were transferred to the military budget, since it was thought advisable to do so, as is being done in other places. In British India, Mysore and other places the same thing is being done. But the change has not converted a votable item into a non-votable item. It was in the past also held to be a non-votable item.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether when it was included in the P. W. D. it was not open to this House to question the principle of the whole demand by a nominal reduction ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think so.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether the principle could not be discussed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It was marked in the past as a non-votable item. I do not know the correctness of it. I am not a lawyer. I shall read what the Regulation says.

"It shall not be lawful for the Legislative Council to consider and enact any measure relating to or affecting.....................................our military forces..............."

So it was open to us to treat it as non-votable even before. There are so many non-votable items which are included under votable heads. This is only one of such items.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Could not the principle involved in these items be discussed by a nominal reduction?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not in a position to answer that. That is for a lawyer to answer. As a matter of fact we have not made any change except that in the present budget we had classified it under a different head.

Mr. Menon also referred to the new head 'Anchal Capital Account' that we have opened for debiting the expenditure which will be incurred for the construction of Anchal buildings. In future we are also taking steps to assess the capital value of the buildings already in use by the department and will charge the department with interest on the capital.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why was the honorarium to the Deputy President treated as non-votable?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is held to be a non-votable item.

PRESIDENT: Have you finished Mr. George?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I have very little to add. Among several other things that were mentioned, I would only refer to one point. One or two members referred to loss of money by misappropriation from the treasuries and said that it was a matter of common occurrence. We had only one serious case like that recently.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): At Kottayam, Quilon and the awkward occurrence at the Kottarakara Treasury. There are so many instances like these.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): At Kottayam it took place a long time ago.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Only three or four years ago.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): About the incident at Kottarakara I have not heard anything officially.

[Mr. K. George.]

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Are there not still lurking cases ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): How am I to know that ?

PRESIDENT: I suppose that it is well known that the world in which we live is not perfect. There will be dishonest people always in it.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have nothing more to add.

The Council adjourned at 5-45 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. the next morning.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 5th August, 1924.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-four of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Powers of Managers and Headmasters of Private Schools.

40. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (1) What are the respective powers of the Manager and the Headmaster of a private school which each one can exercise—

(i) independently of the other, and

(ii) only in collaboration with the other?

(2) Who is responsible for the school records?

(3) If the Headmaster has any responsibility, what are the records for which he is responsible?

(4) If the Headmaster has no responsibility for all or any of the records, how many and which of such records has he the right to demand for perusal from the Manager?

(5) Who should keep the files of letters despatched and received?

(6) In the file of letters despatched by the Manager, has the Headmaster a right to include copies of all the letters despatched by him in his capacity as Headmaster?

(7) If not, is he expected to keep a separate file of all correspondence not passing through the Manager?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(1) to (7). The attention of the member is invited to Standing Order* No. 3, dated the 16th June, 1914, of the Director of Public

* *Vide* Appendix—pages 254 and 255

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

Instruction, a copy of which is laid on the table. It is reported that there are no other instructions on the subject and that matters not covered by the Standing Order are arranged by mutual agreement between the Manager and the Headmaster.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have there not been much unpleasantness and misunderstanding between the Managers and Headmasters because there have not been definite rules in this matter?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am aware that there have been misunderstandings in one particular instance; I am not aware of many instances.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to make some rules to prevent such misunderstandings?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Rules have been made and a copy of the rules has been placed on the table.

Constituencies for the next General Election.

41. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) In view of the fact that certain taluks which formed parts of general rural constituencies for the last general election to the Legislative Council have since been distributed among other taluks which formed different constituencies, what arrangement do the Government propose to make for the next general election?

(*b*) If the old constituencies are to be preserved, do they not recognise the difficulty due to the splitting up of a single taluk into different constituencies, and the consequent inconvenience and division of interests?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):
(*a*) and (*b*) The whole question is engaging the attention of the Government.

National Ideas in Schools.

42. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (1) Is it a fact that the Education Department discourages the spread of national ideas in schools?

(2) Have the Government instructed the school authorities to see that the life and teachings of national leaders of India like Mr. Gandhi should in no way form subjects of conversation or of discussion, outside or inside the class-room?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):
(1) No.

(2) The member's attention is invited to Clauses XIV and XV of Rule 61 and to Note I of Rule 82 of the Education Code.

Khadar.

43. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Do the Government discourage the use of *khadar* by their servants?

(*b*) If so, do they attach any political significance to *khadar*?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The question does not arise, in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Report of the Excise Committee.

44. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Excise Committee submitted their report, and, if so, what orders were passed on the same?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to place on the table copies of the report and the proceedings passed thereon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The report of the committee has not yet reached the Government.

(*b*) The suggestion made by the member will be considered on receipt of the report.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When was the Excise Committee formed?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Under the orders issued on the 16th November, 1923.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was there any time-limit for the submission of the report?

MR S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the time-limit?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Two months.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether any extension was granted?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How often?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Extension was granted up to the 20th Edavam. The committee's report is now in circulation, and all the non-official members have not yet signed the report.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it not the intention of the Government to have received the report in time so as to modify their policy in regard to matters connected with the Excise administration?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government would have very much wished that the Committee's report came in time.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not the fact that the report was not received in time mean that the affairs in the Excise Department are to continue as they are for the next two years during the biennial contract for 1100-11?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): We do not know what the recommendations of the Excise Committee are going to be. So far as the contract is concerned, that has been concluded for the next biennium.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Can the terms of the contract be altered in any way during the time of its currency?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. But there are so many other matters in connection with the excise policy with reference to which we have to await the recommendations of the Excise Committee to see what improvements can be effected.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Can shops be removed from one place to another after the contracts have been entered into?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice of the question.

Mr. Van Ross's Case.

45. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Is it a fact that Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai, High Court Vakil, has been appointed as Public Prosecutor for the conduct of Mr. Van Ross's case?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will they be pleased to state the reasons for appointing him as Public Prosecutor, when there are so many Sirkar Vakils in Trivandrum?

(*c*) Are they sanctioning daily allowance to Mr. Van Ross on the days he attends court in connection with this case?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai was in charge of the prosecution of the case when it was pending before the District Magistrate, Trivandrum. When it was committed to the Sessions Court under the orders of the High Court, it was considered desirable to retain Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai himself for the conduct of the case in the Sessions Court.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many Sirkar Vakils and Assistant Sirkar Vakils are there in Trivandrum?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are two Sirkar Vakils attached to the District Court—one permanent and the other temporary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Altogether?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are the Head Sirkar Vakil, the Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil, etc. The number is given in the *Civil List*.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do not the Government consider that all these vakils are competent to conduct this case?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Then, why was Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai specially appointed?

PRESIDENT: The reason is given in the printed answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Why was Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai appointed when there are so many Sirkar Vakils to conduct the case?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The reason is there, in part (*b*) of the answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Whenever an attempt is made against an officer's character, do the Government propose to defend him as in the present case?

PRESIDENT: That is a hypothetical question.

Filling of Vacancies of Assistant Excise Commissioners.

46. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Is it a fact that there are two permanent vacancies of Assistant Excise Commissioners in the Excise Department, and that in those vacancies two junior Inspectors have been acting for the last two years?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are more than three supernumerary officers in the grades of Tahsildars and Superintendents of the Huzur Secretariat?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to state the reasons for not absorbing two of these supernumeraries in these permanent vacancies?

(*d*) Have any supernumerary officers applied for a place in the Excise Department, and, if so, what are the orders passed on their applications?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) There are two permanent vacancies in the grade of Assistant Excise Commissioners in the department. The two officers who are acting in these two vacancies are the two senior First Grade Inspectors.

(*b*) There are no supernumerary Tahsildars now. There is a supernumerary Superintendent in the Huzur Secretariat; he has been absorbed in a vacancy which will become permanent in the near future.

(*c*) In view of the answer to part (*b*) above, this question does not arise.

(*d*) Yes. There was one such application by the supernumerary Superintendent mentioned in part (*b*) and it was forwarded to the Excise Commissioner.

[President].

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that there are seven senior Inspectors with longer service in the first grade?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There may be men with longer service; but these are the two seniormost Inspectors in the *cadre* now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that severe strictures have been passed both by the Government and by the Excise Commissioner on these two officers—Mr. Parasu Pillai and Mr. Sankara Aiyar—on the detective work done by them, the latter having detected only one case?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*Secretary to Government*): Government might have; I do not remember.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not Mr. Govinda Pillai Superintendent in the Huzur Secretariat, apply for the place of Assistant Excise Commissioner?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He is the person referred to in part (*d*) of the answer.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has he not seventeen years' service to his credit?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He has.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does he not permanently draw Rs. 160?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He does.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Then why was his claim overlooked in favour of the two officers who were drawing Rs. 105 and Rs. 120 respectively?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He is not in the Excise Department and no question of claim arises in his case.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does it mean that only officers in the Excise Department could have promotions in the Excise Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Ordinarily.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not the policy of the Government that the services in the State, especially from the Huzur Secretariat, should have a free flow and that new blood should be infused in the executive branches of the service so that the officers may not vegetate in the Secretariat?

PRESIDENT: That is a question involving a request for a declaration of policy. It cannot be put now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I ask, is it not the declared policy of the Government on the authority of which so many others have been drafted to the executive departments ? Mr. Van Ross, Mr. Raman Pillai and others were similarly drafted.

PRESIDENT : That is a question of policy.

Toddy Shop at Kadappakkada, Quilon Taluk.

47. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : (*a*) Have the Government received a memorial signed by the inhabitants of the Uliyakkovil, Pattattanam and Asramam *cheries* of Quilon taluk, living near toddy shop No. 19, which is situated in the market place called Kadappakkada, praying for the abolition or removal of that shop ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to pass early orders granting the request of the memorialists ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Posting of Brahmin Teachers in Vernacular Schools.

48. MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Inspector of Vernacular Schools generally transfers Brahmin teachers to centres where there are Devaswom choultries and Government feeding-houses and retains such teachers in those centres for inordinately long periods ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to look into the statistics regarding this matter and place the same on the table to see whether the transfers ordered by the Inspector or his subordinates are such as to lend colour to any allegation as above indicated ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) There are no Devaswom choultries or Government feeding-houses to which Brahmin teachers are at liberty to resort. By G. O. No. D. 1748, dated the 11th May, 1909, the practice of Sirkar servants being fed in mofussil *oottupuras* has been ordered to be completely stopped. Teachers are posted and retained in the several stations according to the exigencies of the service, and, under circular No. VII dated the 22nd April, 1915, they are posted, as far as possible, to schools in or near their native places. The Ag. Director of Public Instruction reports that the question whether a Brahmin teacher can have free meal in a station is not a consideration which has ever weighed with the Inspector of Vernacular Schools in the posting of teachers.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this is not necessary.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Are the Government in a position to illustrate their answer with reference to any particular school ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Will the member kindly explain the question further ?

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know, for instance, what is the sort of teachers that are employed in the Vernacular School at Ambalapuzha? May I know further how many of them are natives of Ambalapuzha?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I shall call for that information; I have not got it ready now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know further how many of the teachers employed at Ambalapuzha are Brahmins?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I shall give full information on all these points.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Thanks.

Posting of Brahmin Teachers in Vernacular Schools.

49. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Inspector of Vernacular Schools generally transfers Brahmin teachers to centres where there are Devaswom choultries and Government feeding-houses and retains such teachers in those centres for inordinately long periods?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to look into the statistics regarding this matter and place the same on the table to see whether the transfers ordered by the Inspector or his subordinates are such as to lend colour to any allegation as above indicated?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 48.

Appendix.

Vide Answer to Question No. 40.

STANDING ORDERS UNDER THE EDUCATION CODE.

No. 3 of 1914.

Rule 29 of the Education Code.

On and after this date, the duties and powers of Headmasters, who are not Managers, shall be as defined below:—

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE HEADMASTER.

I. It shall be the duty of the Headmaster—

(*a*) to devote the whole of his time to the duties of his office and not to engage in any trade, business, occupation, or special study, which will interfere with the efficient discharge of these duties or to which the Manager or the Inspecting Officers of the Education Department may object;

(*b*) to attend the school regularly and punctually and not to absent himself therefrom unless prevented by illness or unless he has received the previous permission of the Manager;

(c) to allot to each teacher or other member of the staff certain duties, to supervise the discharge of these duties, and to report to the Manager every case in which a teacher or other member of the staff fails to discharge his duty regularly, punctually and efficiently;

(d) to see that the registers and records of the school are maintained in accordance with departmental regulations and that returns due to the department are prepared accurately and submitted promptly;

(e) to maintain efficient discipline in the school in accordance with the school rules and with departmental regulations;

(f) to see that the furniture, equipment, apparatus and teaching appliances are kept in good order, and to report to the Manager any deficiencies in the same;

(g) to see that the building and premises are kept in a clean and tidy condition and that the sanitary state of the school and compound is satisfactory;

(h) to recommend suitable and properly qualified persons to the Manager for appointment to any vacancy on the staff;

(i) to see that the fees are collected in accordance with prescribed rules; and

(j) generally, to carry out all regulations prescribed by the Department, to report to the Manager any case in which these regulations are not being strictly obeyed, and in other matters not herein specified to act under the orders of the Manager.

II. The Headmaster shall have power—

(a) to admit pupils in accordance with departmental regulations;

(b) to punish, discharge and dismiss pupils in accordance with departmental regulations and the rules of the school;

(c) to recommend to the Manager to punish by fine, not exceeding two days' pay, any member of the staff, for negligence or disobedience of orders;

(d) to appoint and dismiss any servant or menial employed in the school;

(e) to decide the annual promotion of pupils; and

(f) to select pupils who may be admitted at favourable fee rates in accordance with such general rules as may be prescribed by the Manager.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction, Trivandrum, 16th June 1914.

A. W. BISHOP,
Director of Public Instruction.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed with the demands for grants.

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 8·62 lakhs under Demand I—Land Revenue.

Motion 1

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I rise to make the following motion :—

1. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 500.

For this item, the allotment was Rs. 2,855 in 1098. Now, let us look at the kind of touring work of the Land Revenue Commissioner in the year 1098. Page 24 of the *Administration Report* says:—

"Paragraph 14. The Income Tax Commissioner inspected the offices of 11 Tahsildar Collectors, 5 Division Assistant Collectors and 2 Dewan Peishkar Collectors against 21, 5 and 4 respectively in the previous year."

This clearly shows that the Commissioner is inclined to shirk touring work. Again, the annual report of the Department shows that he is not so vigilant as he ought to be (page 9, paragraph 15, 'Tours').

"Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar, Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner, was in camp for 65 days and I was in camp for 39 days. But Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar was in charge of office till the 1st of Makaram 1098."

Mr. Robinson was put in his place on 2nd Makaram and he was holding office for seven months whereas his predecessor in office was in service for five months. There can be seen a vast difference in the matter of touring.

The Commissioner does not care also to see how the Peishkars and the Commissioner of Devicolam, who are under him, do their touring work. There also his work is very poor. The annual report says:—

"The average number of days the Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, were in camp during the year was 150 days against 181 days in 1097."

These statistics show clearly that the touring and inspection work are not satisfactory. I do not know whether he has visited many taluks. My taluk, namely, the Chirayinkil taluk, is under him.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether inspection consists in the number of days spent in camp or in the thoroughness of going into the work?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I am only submitting my opinions based on the annual report.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I take it that the member wants thoroughness of inspection? I take it that the inspection is to be judged not by the number of days on tour, but by the actual inspection into the details of work.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I do not catch him.

PRESIDENT : Will you please repeat the question, Mr. Robinson?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): My question is whether the member judges the adequacy of the inspection from the number of days on tour or from the actual work done.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, is the question in order? Is it a question for information?

PRESIDENT : It is in order. The member says that the touring was unsatisfactory, and one reason he gives for his opinion is the small number of days the Commissioner was on tour. Mr. Robinson's question is whether the satisfactoriness or the unsatisfactoriness of an officer's touring is to be judged by the number of days on which he travelled. It is quite a legitimate question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : My question is this. When a non-official member is in charge of a legislative measure, the member in charge may be questioned under the Legislative Council Rules. Except when it is a request for information no other question is permissible at other times under the rules. This appears not to be a request for information. Therefore, my difficulty is whether an elicitation of opinion is covered by the practice of the House and whether this is not out of order.

PRESIDENT : I do not think so. It is a request for information as to the interpretation the member puts upon his own expression.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : It appears not to be covered by any rules.

PRESIDENT : I am afraid it is. Please go on, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I do not know whether he knows the fact that as many as nine *pakuthies* in my taluk are left without any L. R. M. work. The Commissioner nevertheless has given orders to find out and survey the *poramboke* lands from these *pakuthies*. The Commissioner seems to be blind to the matter even though volumes of questions have been asked in this House and a number of evasive answers have been received from the Chief Secretary.

After all, Sir, the Commissioner travels by motor, travelling great distances in one stretch. For these reasons, I move for the reduction of Rs. 500 under travelling allowance.

PRESIDENT : Is that motion supported ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I support it. I have been a Government officer myself and I am a great believer in inspection work. Subordinates are kept in check and everything kept in order. And if they are not in order inspection by superior officers has the effect of putting things right. It saves a lot of unnecessary

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

correspondence and red-tape. If the officer goes to the spot he can give personal orders on many things. I did not read the portion of the report referred to by my friend; but I am exceedingly surprised to see that an energetic, hard-working and competent officer like the present Revenue Commissioner should have failed in his duty in regard to this matter of circuit work. I expected very much better from him (*laughter*), especially just now, when things are in a topsy-turvy condition, when the Assistant Tahsildars' fate is hanging in the balance. There was not a single session of this House during which we did not severely criticise the revenue administration of the State.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I draw the member's attention to the fact that the report referred to by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai is the report for the year 1098 and not for 1099?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf is referring to 1098 also.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am referring to the seven months that Mr. Robinson was in charge of the Department in 1098. I am simply surprised that, with the motor-car and so many other facilities for travelling, there should have been so much laxity in inspection work. I think I have said enough to stress the great necessity of better inspection work being done by the Revenue Commissioner.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂകമ്മിഷണരുടെ സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതു് അത്ര ശരിയായിരിക്കയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. സഞ്ചാരംകൊണ്ടു വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അധികപ്രയോജനം വരുത്തുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ഒരാളാണ് അദ്ദേഹമെന്ന് ഇതുവരെയുള്ള അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ യാത്രകളിൽനിന്നു വെളിവായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും അദ്ദേഹം വന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്കു നിവൃത്തി ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. കുറെക്കൂടി പ്രയോജനം മേലും ഉണ്ടാകണമെങ്കിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനാവശ്യമുള്ള സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി അനുവദിക്കതന്നെവേണം. ചിലതാലൂക്കുകളിലെല്ലാം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു വന്നെത്തുവാനും അഴിമതികളെ ഒതുക്കുവാനും സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലായിരിക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ട്രാവലിങ്ങ് അലവൻസ് കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞത്. എന്നാൽ എന്റെ അനുഭവത്തിൽനിന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പലസ്ഥലത്തും സഞ്ചരിച്ചു പല നന്മകളും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വരുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അഴിമതികളിൽ നിന്നു ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കാൻ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സർക്കീട്ട് ആവശ്യമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ചില അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരുടെ സർക്കീട്ടുകൊണ്ടു വിപരീതഫലമാണ്

വരുന്നതെന്നും പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇദ്ദേഹം ആ കൂട്ടത്തിലല്ല. ഇദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സൎക്കീട്ടുകൊണ്ടു കൂടുതൽഗുണമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് അലവൻസ് കുറയ്ക്കരുതെന്നു ഞാൻ വീണ്ടും പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞിത്തൊമ്മന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു യോജിക്കുന്നു. ലാൻഡ്റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ റാബിൻസൺ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായിരുന്നതിനു മുമ്പുള്ള സ്ഥിതികൾക്കും ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്കും വളരെ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ട്. അദ്ദേഹം മോട്ടാറിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞുകൃഷ്ണപിള്ളയുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. അദ്ദേഹം ഈയിടതന്നെ തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ സൎക്കീട്ടുവന്നിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു മോട്ടാറുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ചിലദിവസം ഒന്നുംരണ്ടും സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പരിശോധനകൾകഴിച്ചു മടങ്ങിയെത്തുന്നു. മുൻപിലത്തെയുംഇന്നത്തേയും സ്ഥിതികൾക്കു വേറെഒരുവ്യത്യാസം കാണുന്നതു കീഴ്സിൽബന്ധികളുടെയിടയിലുള്ള അഴിമതികൾക്കു വളരെ കുറവുള്ളതാണ്. അതിനു കാരണം പലതുമുണ്ട്. ഈ പരാതിക്കാർ എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും നേരിട്ടുപേരുവച്ചുഹർജികൊടുക്കുന്നതു അപൂൎവ്വമാണ്. പലപ്പോഴും വാസ്തവമായ സംഗതികൾക്കു കള്ളപ്പേരുവച്ചോ പേരുവയ്ക്കാതെയോ ആണ് ഹർജികൾ അയക്കുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ളഹർജികൾ അദ്ദേഹം ചവററുകൊട്ടയിൽതള്ളുകയോ വലിച്ചുകീറിക്കളകയോ അല്ല ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അതിൽവല്ലകാൎയ്യവും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഉടനെതന്നെ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി ന്യായമായിതീരുമാനിക്കുന്നു. അതിലേക്ക് അടുത്തകാലത്തുതന്നെ ഒരുദൃഷ്ടാന്തം എനിക്ക് അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. അദ്ദേഹം കല്ക്കുളംതാലൂക്കിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ ഒന്നുരണ്ടുഹർജികൾ കിട്ടുകയും അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു ഭംഗിയായിഅന്വേഷണം നടത്തി തീരുമാനിക്കയുമാണ് ചെയ്തത്. കൃത്യനിഷ്ഠയോടുകൂടി ജോലിചെയ്തുവരുന്ന ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി കുറയ്ക്കുകയോ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു മനോവേദനവരുത്തത്തക്കവണ്ണം പറയുകയോ ചെയ്യുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം ഹൃദയപൂൎവ്വമായി വേലചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പടിപ്പണം കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടു ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണു എനിക്കു അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I oppose the motion. It is rather unfortunate that, of all officers, the Revenue Commissioner should have been chosen for criticism in this respect. I am sure the public have the greatest confidence in the present Revenue Commissioner and, so far as I have been able to see, there had absolutely been no complaint either in the matter of inspection

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

or in the conduct of work with respect to the Revenue Department. There is absolutely nothing to say against the Revenue Commissioner in the matter of inspection work or in the matter of supervision, with regard to the revenue establishment. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, I also oppose the motion. I never thought of speaking on this particular motion for fear that most of our motions would lapse, if all of us make it a point to speak on occasions like this. But the fact that an officer like the present Land Revenue Commissioner has been attacked, especially by one of the experienced pensioned Government officers like Mr. Hoogewerf, cannot be allowed to go without notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that, during the seven months in 1098 the present Land Revenue Commissioner was in charge of the Department, he was on tour only on 35 days? My remarks referred only to that fact. I have great respect for Mr. Robinson as an officer. I do not want to reduce one pie from his T. A. On the other hand, I would certainly give him more. (*Laughter.*)

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I am of the opinion that the remarks made against him are not fair and that he does not deserve them. I would also say in this connection that, so far as that officer's T. A. is concerned, the amount sanctioned is not enough. I would also point out that, if he had been given the use of a motor-boat also, he would have been able to visit taluks like Shertallai and other places. So I oppose the motion.

MR S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I do not think much of reply is necessary from me. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai remarked about the number of days I was on circuit in the year 1098. I took charge of the Department at the end of the year and I had a large amount of work in connection with income tax and revenue dues. Since the time of Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar, many income tax cases had been filed and all these were handed over to me when I took charge of the Department. I had a number of cases to dispose of and every day I had to hear five, six and even ten or twelve cases. It was this sort of work that prevented me from touring as much as I wished to do. There were appeals on almost every income tax assessment that was made. The assessments had to be postponed till the appeals were disposed of. In this manner there were a number of difficulties which did not enable me to do more touring work. The member himself has brought forward the motion only to point out that the touring work was insufficient. That is the more reason why more T. A. must be granted to me. It is very hard to a Government officer now-a-days to please everybody. Some members advocate the cutting down of the travelling allowance. Other members advocate more touring. If the officer is to do more touring, he must necessarily spend more. In fact it reminds me of the story of the poor Brahmin. With your permission, I would relate the story.

PRESIDENT: You have also to note the time-limit.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I will reserve it for another occasion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not think it is the intention of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai or myself—

PRESIDENT: You cannot explain for Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. You may explain for yourself. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): We simply mentioned this to draw the attention of the Council, Mr. Robinson, and the Government to the paucity of the number of days on which the Land Revenue Commissioner was on tour, and nothing more than that.

PRESIDENT: You have already explained that.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The amount sanctioned for T. A. in 1099 has already been spent and it is really found insufficient. I had to travel about in connection with H. E. the Governor's visit and that T. A. had to be met out of the funds allotted for expenses in connection with the visit. Otherwise, I would not have been able to do all the inspection work. This year, the T. A. has already been spent and it is with great difficulty that we have been able to manage. I think we must be able to get the amount which we are really entitled to. The T. A. allotted is not only for myself. It is for the establishment also. It is really very difficult to manage with the allotment sanctioned. I applied for Rs. 1,000 more and Government cut it down by Rs. 1,000.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did any T. A. allowed to the Land Revenue Commissioner last year lapse?

PRESIDENT: You mean 1098?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the figures ready. This year everything has been spent and more had to be spent on account of the Governor's tour.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I would also oppose the motion and in the light of the observations of Mr. Robinson, I hope Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai will withdraw his motion.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 2.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): I beg to move the following motion:—

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

2. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,740 for Nottams by Rs. 1,020.*

Sir, if I understand it rightly, the office of *Nottams* has been instituted at a time when our *chackram* coin was silver and when there was any amount of false coins in circulation. Once that coin was abolished and the necessity for examining and detecting the false coins ceased, the office for the same should have ceased with it automatically. But we see the office surviving the *kalla chackram* so many years. So I think it is high time to do away with this antiquarian office.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I second the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. In all, there are five *Nottams* on Rs. 17 each per mensem. They are distributed as follows:—

Divisional Treasury	Trivandrum	3
Divisional Treasury	Quilon	1
Divisional Treasury	Kottayam	1

These *Nottams* are entertained in treasuries where there are very heavy transactions. Their duty is to accept the money presented at the treasuries as per chalans, remittance, etc., and to see whether the coins, notes, etc., received are genuine or spurious. It requires a good deal of experience. Anybody who has watched these *Nottams* at work would be able to find and appreciate how well these *Nottams* are able to detect false coins. It is really wonderful. The treasurer who has got other multifarious duties connected with the treasury will not have sufficient time to attend to this item of work also in addition to his own. It is with a view to give some relief to the treasurers in the above-mentioned big treasuries and also to vouchsafe the genuineness of the coins and notes lodged in the treasuries that Government have sanctioned the entertainment of these *Nottams*. It is only in big treasuries that we have these *Nottams*. Of course in the minor treasuries the work is being done by the treasurers. It is highly necessary in the interests of the tax-payer and the public that these *Nottams* are retained in service in the big treasuries. In fact we have had already a lot of false notes and coins thrown on the country and we have to safeguard the Government—which means the tax-payer—and the public against receiving false coins. The *Nottams* have had long experience and can throw out false coins immediately, whereas an inexperienced man might pass them. The transactions in these treasuries are very heavy and, as it is, the treasurers have to be helped by these *Nottams* to count and check the coins, especially when large remittances are received. Even at present they are often helped by peons and clerks. If we do not entertain these *Nottams*, it will seriously interefere with the work of the treasuries and also render easy the remittance of false coins in the Government treasuries. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I also beg to support the motion. As has been pointed out by the Reverend Father, the institution of *Nottams* is practically of a bye-gone age when one *chackram* pieces were in circulation. Now many of the treasuries have to deal in the main with paper currency. At any rate, to a considerable extent, the allotment on behalf of *Nottams* is capable of reduction. Viewing the question in that light, I would request Mr. Robinson to reconsider the question and suggest, if possible, a compromise, accepting a reduction in the allotment for *Nottams*. It is not the idea of this House to do away with *Nottams* in their entirety. Some of them may survive where they are absolutely necessary. I only maintain that the subject, in view of the existing practice, is capable of consideration and reduction. In that light, I beg to support the motion of Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I beg to oppose that motion. The statement by the Reverend Father that these *Nottams* are to shroff only silver *chackram* pieces is not correct.

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I say that the Reverend Father's statement that the *Nottams* are to shroff only the silver *chackram* pieces is not correct. Certainly there were a large number of counterfeit silver *chackram* pieces. These *Nottams* are intended to shroff all siver coins including the rupee and—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether the *gollas* also belong to the same species?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government.*): No; they are peons who are engaged in carrying coins. The *Nottams* are shroffs.

All the silver coins that are remitted in the treasuries have to be checked and examined and for this purpose these *Nottams* are absolutely necessary, especially in the bigger treasuries. In the smaller treasuries we manage with the treasurers because the transactions are few. In major treasuries we cannot manage without *Nottams*. About two years ago we did away with one or two of them. Now we have only three *Nottams* in the Trivandrum Treasury. Without them we cannot manage at all.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): How many *Nottams* are there in the State?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is shown in the budget; there are five in the Divisional Treasuries.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is their average pay?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is no average. The pay is fixed. It is Rs. 17.

As I said, we have *Nottams* only in the bigger treasuries. The treasurers there are not able to manage even their own work, particularly in the Divisional Treasuries of Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam,

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

Without the assistance of these *Nottams* you cannot guarantee the purity of the coins remitted in the treasuries. That is the very essential part of the work of all treasuries and without the assistance of the *Nottams* it is impossible to secure the purity of the coins.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I beg to support the motion and in doing so I should like to add a word about the origin of the word "*Nottam*." I should think that the word *Nottam* itself came into existence on account of the fact that certain planks used in the treasuries which contain holes for silver *chackrams, fanams* and so on, had to be examined after being filled by the coins. There are hundred-*fanam* planks, two hundred-*fanam* planks and so on. After spreading the coins on the planks the shroff has to examine whether the plank has been filled correctly and for this purpose he has to carefully look at the planks. It is that looking at the planks that is called *Nottam*.

PRESIDENT: Does it exclude the examination of the genuineness of the coins?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): The shroff has to examine whether the silver *chackram* pieces have been spread on the planks properly.

PRESIDENT: False coins also can get into these holes.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Men of experience can, by a glance, pick out the false coins, or *chempu chackrams* as they were called. So I should think that the word *Nottam* refers to the looking at the planks and that therefore the *Nottams* also must cease along with these planks.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I ask whether the member would dispense with the shroffing of coins?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Certainly not.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Then who is to do it?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Of course, the treasurer must do it. The treasurer who is practically responsible for the treasury must do this also. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, I have been a Divisional Treasury Officer myself and I can speak with some experience on this matter. Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli seems to be under the idea that only silver *chackrams* need be shroffed. That is not a fact. There were and there are other coins that have to be shroffed. The whole silver rupee, the half rupee, the quarter rupee, the one-eighth rupee and the *fanam* and several copper coins of various sorts are all being remitted into the treasuries and when the remittance is received in the treasury all these coins have to be shroffed. Let us suppose, for example, that about a lakh and fifty thousand rupees worth of coins are

remitted in a particular treasury. It is sure to be made up of all sorts of coins. All these coins have to be shroffed. Now, as for the time required to shroff these coins, I can give the details. In the case of the whole British rupee, one *Nottam* can shroff correctly only Rs. 5,000 in a day. So, if you get a remittance of a lakh and fifty thousand rupees, it will generally take at least ten or twelve days for three *Nottams*, and it is not advisable to keep remittances unshroffed for any number of days. It ought to be closed in ten or fifteen days. It must be finished by that time. So the three *Nottams* allotted for the Trivandrum Divisional Treasury are just sufficient.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Are there *Nottams* along with shroffs?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): No, the *Nottams* are the shroffs. There are no other shroffs. The *gollas* are simply engaged to carry treasure from one part of the treasury to another, say, from the shroff's room to the Treasury Officer's room. As for the Treasury Officer, he has absolutely no time even for doing his own work.

PRESIDENT: The *gollas* are menials.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Even the copper coins have to be shroffed, because there are counterfeit copper coins also. There are very many copper blanks, as they are called, and there are also false coins and coins of other countries, so that even copper coins require shroffing. I therefore say that it is absolutely necessary to retain all the *Nottams* now in existence, because the reduction of even one of them would result in dislocation of the whole work.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): After the clear explanation from Mr. Robinson, Mr. George and our expert Mr. Lakshmana Pillai, I think the mover will withdraw his motion. I was also under the impression that *Nottams* were not necessary. But after hearing the explanation of the previous speakers I would ask Fr. Vettikkapalli to withdraw his motion.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): On the assurance from the Land Revenue Commissioner that these *Nottams* have still ample work to do, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 3.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I move the following:

3. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 53,424 under establishment to Division Cutcherries by Rs. 4,800.*

PRESIDENT: What does the proposed reduction represent?

[President.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): This is intended to discuss the question as to whether the Division Assistant at Peermade should continue or not.

PRESIDENT: But you are proposing the cut of that officer's salary instead of a cut in the establishment charges.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Out of the establishment charges under Division Cutcherries, I move for a reduction of Rs. 4,800. The figure was put in with a view to indicate to the Government my object in making the motion. A similar motion was discussed during the last budget and the House discussed the principle as to whether in the Devicolam Division there should be both a Commissioner and a Division Assistant at Peermade. In discussing that question, after a full and elaborate debate, the House carried the motion for the abolition of the place of a Division Assistant at Peermade by an overwhelming majority of 26 against 18. It is very rarely that in this House the non-official members succeed in getting motions carried with such an overwhelming majority, especially when the Government propose to put up a strong fight. It is very unfortunate that, even after such a motion was carried with such a clear majority, no steps appear to have been taken by Government in carrying out the principle that has already been adopted by this House. The object of my motion is to elicit from Government some information as to whether they have taken any steps towards that direction, and, if not, why they have chosen not to take any action in the matter. Sufficient reasons have been shown last time as to why the place should be abolished. We are now at a loss to know why the motion has not been practically carried out. I should therefore like very much that this House should be informed as to the circumstances under which Government have chosen to continue the place in spite of the declared intention on the part of the House to have it abolished.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know from Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai whether the matter was not discussed in the Finance Committee?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The question was raised in the Finance Committee by the non-official members. It is a non-votable item. In the Finance Committee we can only express our opinion which will be duly recorded. Nothing more can be done. Whatever could be done has been done by the Finance Committee.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I will reserve my remarks and make them after hearing the Government member.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The motion has not been seconded.

PRESIDENT: The rules do not require the seconding of these motions.

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): First of all I may point out that this motion deals entirely with the Peermade Division Assistant's pay which is a non-votable item.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Louder, please.

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The motion was really admitted by inadvertence. It is exactly the pay of the Division Assistant at Peermade. It is strictly a non-votable item. However, I will offer a few remarks and oppose the proposition.

The trend of the discussion shows that the object of the member is not merely to curtail or disallow the expenditure under office staff or contingencies, but also to have the post of the Division Assistant at Peermade abolished. Of course, that is a non-votable item. I would say that it is premature even to discuss the policy of the question, as the present Assistant was obtained from British service under a special covenant and his term of service has not expired. Government have taken him on for three years and it is probably not possible, and at any rate, not advisable nor expedient to cancel the existing agreement.

Mr. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolam* cum *Peermade*): When was the present incumbent appointed?

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got that information. It will be ascertainable from the *Civil List* or probably the *Directory* of officers.

Mr. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Was it after the passing of this motion in the last year's budget?

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not in the confidence of Government. I do not know when the correspondence began and when the covenant was agreed upon.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Cannot he be put in some other department like the Police?

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): But why? (*Laughter.*) The matter has been gone into very thoroughly last year during the budget discussion by many of the members of this House and I do not think it necessary to waste the time of the House in repeating what I said last year.

The Assistant at Peermade who is also a First Class Magistrate has to attend to different items of work connected with his office just like any other Division Assistant. He has to do a considerable amount of income tax work. There are about 90 assessees on his file and the income accruing from his assessment is about Rs. 17,000. It will not be in the interests of the public to have these items of work done by an officer stationed at Kottayam or any other place away from Peermade. I trust that the House will concede that the

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

Peermade Hills are not the uninhabited hilly tract which they were before. They now constitute a fertile tract studded with tea and rubber estates and are now progressing as a seat of industrial activities. It is the duty of Government to maintain this progress in all respects. The value of money spent on these hills, in opening them up, by the owners of estates, both European and Indian, is very great and Government owe a duty to them to see to their welfare. The town of Peermade is about fifty miles away from Kottayam and the suburbs lie many miles farther. It is most inaccessible from Kottayam. It is impossible to believe that a Division Assistant and First Class Magistrate not stationed at Peermade will be able to exercise any effective supervision over the place or that the Division Peishkar, Kottayam, amidst the work which he has to do in other taluks that lie far away from his headquarters, such as Shertallai, Parur, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha, will be able to spare the time which the Commissioner, Devicolam, is at present able to do to stop at Peermade. To leave the Tahsildar alone at Peermade without a superior officer will not, I think, be a desirable step.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): May I know from Mr. Robinson whether Peermade is closer to Devicolam than Kottayam?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No. As the member knows it is very inaccessible.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Does not the Devicolam Commissioner travel to Peermade *via* Kottayam?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is only possible to reach Peermade from Devicolam *via* Kottayam.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know from Mr. Robinson, how many hours of run is required to reach Peermade from Kottayam by motor?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Three hours' run. The Division Assistant is primarily an executive officer expected to be constantly on circuit to do the several items of work allotted to him and he will not be available in times of need. The area of the taluk excluding the five *pakuthies* transferred to Changanachery or Minachil is 2,58,816 acres as per revenue accounts and the *ayacut* revenue alone is Rs. 1,05,804.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will Mr. Robinson be pleased to state what portion of this revenue is from tea?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the information. Mr. Krishna Aiyar perhaps has come prepared and so he must have more information than I.

The Tahsildar has thus heavy circuit work to do and has to exert his utmost to collect the revenue. Last year, the number of demand notices issued by the Tahsildar was 2,851 involving Rs. 55,843, and a lot of work they have to do on the other side of the hills which consists in getting notices served, the collection of tax and so on. It is only by having an Assistant who will be available at headquarters in times of emergency that we can possibly manage. In view of the fact that the estates are worked mostly with the coolies and depressed classes of Travancore, Government will be failing in their duty to the estate owners if they withdraw the Assistant who is the only chief officer able to control the subordinate staff, revenue, magisterial or police, when necessity arises.

To me it appears that if it is true that the establishment of Government institutions follows generally the advancement of a place, it is equally true that the opening of important public institutions is a necessary element for the advancement of a place. Just when a place is advancing in point of civilization as Peermade, if you withdraw the most important of the Government institutions existing there, you will see that the most co-ordinating factor of the place will disappear and the place itself will go down in importance. Peermade is rising into importance in every way and is materially contributing to swell the State treasury, by way of tax, export duties, income tax, etc. It was a malarious tract before, but is now a sanitarium. If population or land revenue is the only criterion by which Government are to judge the importance of a place, I think that Government would not have been justified in opening any of the institutions such as a Hospital Assistant's office, taluk office, etc., which exist at Peermade at present and that Peermade would not have been what it is at present, a seat of civilization on the hills.

The advantages of having a superior officer of status at any place cannot be estimated by mere statistics. The feeling of safety which the presence of such an officer engenders in the public mind is, I think, incalculable. During last year's budget debate the House has already brought to the Government's notice that they think that the Division Assistant at Peermade is not necessary. This fact has already been noted. To cut all the establishment cost now would be to throw all that staff unjustly out of employment. This would be most unfair and there is no object in it as the former recommendation of the House has already been noted. I appeal to your sense of justice towards the poor staff up there. Are you going to make them starve? It is not possible to dispense with the Division Assistant's services in the middle of his contract or agreement. Further, I may inform the House that this motion was admitted by inadvertence. The proposed cut is exactly the pay of the officer and it is strictly a non-votable item. I would therefore kindly request the member to withdraw the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to second the motion of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Louder, please.

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): This motion was already passed last year, as pointed out by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. The matter has come up again for discussion and possibly it may have to be voted upon this year also. It seems to me, therefore, that we have to go over the whole ground and consider the arguments advanced then and now. The Peermade taluk as now constituted is different from the Peermade taluk sometime before when there were eleven *pakuthies*. At present there are only five *pakuthies*, *i. e.*, Peruvantanam, Peermade, Periar, Vandanmettu and Mlappara. Manimala, Poopara, Vanjipuzha, Poonjar, Kanjirapalli South and Kanjirapalli North have been taken away from the jurisdiction of the Peermade taluk. Now we have only—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the Member why these *pakuthies* were taken away from the Peermade taluk by the Government?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As to why those *pakuthies* were taken away, I may tell him that it may be because Government thought it was good. As regards the policy that actuated the Government, I am not in a position to say. Possibly, Mr. Robinson may be in the confidence of the Government and so he may be in a position to enlighten us as to what his recommendations were and the reasons that induced the Government for the transfer of these *pakuthies*.

However, I am submitting that there are only five *pakuthies* in the Peermade taluk. Out of the five *pakuthies* Peruvantanam belongs to the Vanjipuzha *edavakai* and we have no revenue jurisdiction over that *pakuthi*. Therefore it may be omitted from consideration.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): What about the income tax work in the Peruvantanam *pakuthi*?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I refer to the ordinary revenue and magisterial work. The income tax officers have jurisdiction over the *pakuthi* and I shall discuss the question presently.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think—

PRESIDENT: You may only put a question and not give an opinion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapallai*): Coming to the four *pakuthies* left, Mlappara is mostly reserve land. There may be a few hundred acres of cardamom cultivation. The rest of the land is reserve. So we may eliminate that *pakuthi*.

PRESIDENT: Why eliminate?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I eliminate it because the *pakuthi* is mostly reserved forest, and a

small portion alone being cultivated, there is very little work to be done and very little revenue to be secured. There are few people who inhabit this reserve over whom the Magistrates can exercise jurisdiction.

As regards the Vandanmettu *pakuthi*, it is composed mostly of cardamom estates and the number of owners are few and they live mostly on the other side of the ghauts at Kumbam and other places. It is not inhabited all through the year and it is only at seasons of harvest that these owners come in.

Coming to Peermade and Periyar *pakuthies*, they are mainly composed of tea estates and the assessment is paid direct into the taluk cutcherry. No *proverticar* even is necessary for the purpose. There is only a small percentage of land registered under the *Pandrapattam* Rules, and this, in spite of the revenue jurisdiction over the four *pakuthies*, does not give enough of work for a Division Assistant or even a Tahsildar.

As regards accessibility to Peermade, Mr. Robinson himself has been good enough to admit that it is more accessible from Kottayam than from Devicolam. It is only three hours' drive from Kottayam by motor. A motor service has been in existence for the past several years from Kottayam to Mundakayam, Mundakayam to Periyar and from Periyar to Kumbam—the latter a bi-weekly service—so that any man, whether he be a Division Assistant or a ryot, can at any time go from Kottayam to Peermade.

Then, coming to income tax work, I may say that it is only a matter of Rs. 17,000. Mr. Robinson has not told us how much of this is derived from owners of tea estates. They keep correct accounts and their statements may be relied upon without further evidence. So there is absolutely no work to do for the income tax officers except to call for returns, to accept the returns and pass orders. That may be done whether the office is located at Peermade or Kottayam.

As to magisterial work in the taluk, I beg to state that there is very little to do and I regret to have to remark that the European Magistrates at Peermade have not been found to be much of a success. So, that reason cannot be advanced for the retention of the Division Assistant's place at Peermade.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know from Mr. Krishna Aiyar what his grounds are?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): If Mr. Robinson wants me to state, I shall. However I would rather not. If he will ask me once again this particular question I am prepared to assert that very few European Magistrates at Peermade have been in a position to administer criminal law satisfactorily.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do you mean to include Mr. Robinson also?

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am not going to mention names. I know them for the past several years. I would not have given this answer but for the present request.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Have all these appeals been accepted by the High Court?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It is not a matter of evidence from record. It is a matter of common knowledge with every vakil who has appeared there.

The argument that Mr. Robinson had to advance was that the present incumbent—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is there any order that persons appointed as Assistant Commissioner, Devicolam, should pass an examination in law?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): They are expected to pass special examinations.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Aiyar, you have exceeded your time very much.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Though many arguments have been advanced by Mr. Robinson, I do not see that he has been able to convince us of the necessity for the retention and continuance of the First Class Magistrate at Peermade.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കൃഷ്ണയ്യർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പുറമെ എനിക്കു രണ്ടുവാക്കുകൾ മാത്രമേ പറയേണ്ടതായുള്ളു. ഡിവിഷൻ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരുടെ ജോലികൾ സീമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവന്നപ്പോൾ അവരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനു ഡിവിഷൻ അസിസ്റ്റന്റന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കാനിടയായി. അതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരാവശ്യം ഇപ്പോൾ ദേവികുളം കമ്മിഷണർക്കു നേരിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു പരിശോധിക്കാം.

PRESIDENT: The motion relates to the Assistant Commissioner at Peermade.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): The necessity for the Division Assistant depends on the work of the Commissioner.

PRESIDENT: Oh! that is one of the reasons.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): If I am not in order, I will not proceed further.

PRESIDENT: You may go on.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ൧൦൯൭ മകരം ൩-ാനു കൂടിയ നിയമസഭയിൽ [illegible]

൪൨(൧൧൦), ൪൩(൧൧൧), ൪൪(൧൧൨) ഈചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കുപറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടികളിൽ നിന്നും ദേവികുളം കമ്മിഷണർ അവിടെനടത്തിപ്പോരുന്നജോലികളുടെ പരിമാണം വ്യക്തമായി ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ദേവികുളം കമ്മിഷണർ റവന്യൂഅപ്പീൽകേസുകൾ തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ കണക്കുകൾ നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ മുന്നാണ്ടിലെ കിടപ്പുകൾപടെ ൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൫ കേസുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ ൪-ം, ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൬ കേസുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ ൫-ം, ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൩-കേസുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ ൩-ം കേസുകൾതീൎന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ഒരുകേസുണ്ടായിരുന്നത് ആ ആണ്ടിൽ തീൎത്തിട്ടുമില്ല. ദേവികുളംകമ്മിഷണർ നേരിട്ടുനടപടിനടത്തി തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള റവന്യൂകേസുകളുടെ കണക്കു നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൬൫-ം, ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൩൯-ം, ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൧൭-ം, ൧൦൯൮ ൽ ൩൭-ം കേസുകൾ തീൎത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായും കാണാവുന്നതാണ്.

ഏലക്കൃഷിക്കായി ഭൂമികളെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാനുള്ള അപേക്ഷകളെപ്പററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ മുൻ ആണ്ടുകളിലെ കിടപ്പുകൾപ്പടെ

൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൩൫൯ കേസുകളിൽ ൧൨൫-ം
൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൨൫൫-കേസുകളിൽ ൧൨൧-ം
൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൧൩൭-കേസുകളിൽ ൯൬-ം
൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൪൨-കേസുകളിൽ ൧൫-ം

തീൎത്തിരിക്കുന്നതായികാണുന്നു.

ഭൂമിസംരക്ഷണറഗുലേഷൻ പ്രകാരമുള്ള അപ്പീൽ കേസുകളിൽ ദേവികുളം കമ്മിഷണർ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ജോലികളെ നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ

൧൦൯൫-ൽ ഒരുകേസുണ്ടായിരുന്നതുതീൎത്തിട്ടില്ല.
൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൬ കേസുകളിൽ ൫ എണ്ണം തീൎത്തിരിക്കുന്നു.
൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൨ കേസുകളിൽ ൨-ം തീൎത്തിരിക്കുന്നു.
൧൦൯൮-ൽ ഒരുകേസുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു തീൎത്തിട്ടില്ല.

മേൽവിവരിച്ച കണക്കുകൾകൊണ്ടു ദേവികുളംകമ്മിഷണക്കുള്ള റവന്യൂജോലികളുടെ പരിമാണം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

ഇനി ദേവികുളം കമ്മിഷണക്കുള്ള ക്രിമിനൽകേസുകളെപ്പററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൧൧ കേസുകളേ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളു എന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ. ദേവികുളം എന്നൊരു ഡിവിഷനേ പ്രത്യേകം

[Mr. K. Dominic Tomman.]

സൃഷ്ടിക്കയും അതിലേക്ക മേധാവിയായി പേഷ്കാരുടെ സ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ഒരാളെ വയ്ക്കുകയും വേണമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ തൽകാലം സമ്മതിക്കാമെന്നിരുന്നാലും അവിടെയൊരു അസിസ്റ്റന്റു കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആവശ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാൻ നിർവ്വാഹമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വിലകൂടിയ ഉദ്യോഗം അവിടെ ഒരിക്കലും ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെപ്പറ്റി എപ്പോഴും എല്ലാ വഴികളിലും കഠിനമായി ആക്ഷേപിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായ ഇത്തരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും വിഹിതമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When I heard Mr. Robinson cataloguing the duties of the Division Assistant at Peermade, I began to think that more or less his presence there was necessary. But after hearing Mr. Krishna Aiyar and Mr. Kumara Pillai my angle of vision has changed. Mr. Krishna Aiyar, who appears to know about matters at Peermade, has clearly proved much by chapter and verse that the arguments advanced by Mr. Robinson are more or less a sort of fiction.

PRESIDENT: Fiction?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Not exactly fiction. That it cannot hold water for a moment. Mr. Kumara Pillai's arguments appear to be a little bit of revelation. I do not think any special pleading is necessary on this part of the House to convince the House that this is one of those sinecures of the Travancore departments. I therefore strongly support Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion to do away with the Assistant Commissionership at Peermade, expressing my regret and surprise to find that, after this House had passed the motion with an overwhelming majority this time last year, this sinecure should still continue.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I oppose the motion and, on behalf of the community I represent, would ask that the place of Assistant Commissioner should be retained. It would be a great hardship to the planters in that part of the country if Kottayam were made the headquarters of the district. It may suit the convenience of Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Dominic Tomman to have the headquarters transferred to Kottayam or Kanjirapalli. But it would certainly not suit the convenience of the planters and in this case it is they that should be considered. They do not ask much of Government as a rule and I think that some consideration should be shown to them.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, I support the motion. It may be supposed that there is no work even for the Commissioner of Devicolam, because, if the Peermade Assistantship is abolished, Peermade will have to be placed under the

Kottayam Dewan Peishkar. Then the jurisdiction of the Devicolam Commissioner may extend only to the Devicolam taluk. It may be seen that a major portion of the Devicolam taluk belongs to the K. D. H. P. & Co, *i. e.*, about 270 square miles in extent. Within that concession area our revenue authorities have very little work to do. The remaining portion of the Devicolam taluk extends over reserved forests or grass lands.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Does the gentleman know what he is talking about?

PRESIDENT: You are putting it rather strongly.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Yes, I know. Besides a few villages in Anjanad and a few tea estates outside the concession are, there are also a few shrubby areas which are not inhabited.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know from Mr. Dominic Tomman whether he does not think that such a scarcely inhabited and scattered place in the hills and so on, should receive special attention? If the Peermade Division Assistant is taken away, should there not be a responsible officer to look after—

MR. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): A Tahsildar is enough.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Tahsildar is the responsible officer to take the initiative!

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): The Kottayam Peishkar can reach Peermade in six hours, at least in a shorter drive than the Commissioner can reach.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know whether he has ever travelled through the Cardamom Hills?

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Yes, Sir, I have.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Has he not got to walk?

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Yes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Has he not to take his things on headloads?

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Yes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it possible for officers of Government to travel more than 10 or 15 miles a day owing to the hills and dales?

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Yes, Sir. The Commissioner travels only during the hot season.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Will he be in a position to move from place to place, *i. e.*, to the Cardamom Hills and other places, without walking?

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*) Yes, by getting on horseback.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Only fifteen miles a day at the most.

PRESIDENT : Is that a question or an answer ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : It is a question.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*) : So, if sufficient work will have to be given to the Devicolam Commissioner the post is to be retained. Either Muvattupuzha or Todupuzha may be placed under the Devicolam Commissioner than Peermade which is far away from Devicolam. By this the Government will thus even save the travelling allowance of the Commissioner of Devicolam. With these observations, I support the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Sir, I thought that I need not tell the reasons that induced the Council in coming at a decision last time in relation to this particular question.

PRESIDENT : May I point out, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, in connection with your motion to reduce Rs. 4,800 from the allotment of Rs. 53,424 under establishment--Division Cutcherries,—that, if it does not represent the salary of the Peermade Assistant, it is difficult to see what it does represent. I may tell you for your information that the entire cost of the establishment of that officer is only Rs. 2,407.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I may just explain why I want to reduce Rs. 4,800. In sending up the motion I had explained why I have taken that figure.

PRESIDENT : Yes, please explain.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Under Division Cutcherries, Rs. 68,700 on Salaries and allowances are not votable. Under Division Cutcherries Rs. 53,424 is the amount for establishment. The only means whereby this Council can discuss or pass any motion relating to any non-votable item, or with a view to bring to discussion any non-votable item, will be by moving for a reduction in the establishment.

PRESIDENT : Does it not relate to the establishment of that particular office ?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : As a matter of fact, it is out of the total allotment under Division Cutcherries, that I have brought the motion. In its present form my motion would involve not only the cutting down of the establishment of that Division Assistant but it would also involve making other reductions in the establishment of Division Cutcherries. Rather, it would have this effect, namely, that if this motion is carried, the establishment under Division Cutcherries will have to be provided for out of the salary

of the Division Assistant of Devicolam whose salary amounts to Rs. 4,800.

PRESIDENT: That does not follow.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In other words, the only way in which we can give effect to it is to move for a reduction of Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment charges so that it will have to be met by the Government in the way pointed out by this House.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that it can be allowed, because it amounts practically to your resolving on a non-votable item.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The only way in which we can give effect to our motion, since it is not possible for the non-official members of this House to reduce the salary of any particular officer if it is above Rs. 125, is to indirectly move for the reduction of that amount which represents the salary of that officer out of the establishment.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that it is a new principle which is being sought to be established and which I think cannot be accepted. You cannot bring before the House a motion which really amounts to the cutting of a non-votable item. If the House passes it, what would be its effect?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): It would not affect the votable item but it would affect the non-votable items only.

PRESIDENT: It must affect only votable items and not non-votable items,—I mean, if the Government do not see their way to give effect to the intentions of the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): If the Government do not give effect to the intention of the House in regard to this motion, naturally the effect of it will be to cut down Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment of the Division Assistant. That is what I am pointing out.

PRESIDENT: That is a serious matter. It will affect the entire establishment of the Division Assistant and more.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That is exactly the position that I wanted to impress upon the House. My motion I have deliberately put in. That is the reduction of Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment charges so that it might have some effect upon the Government. On the last occasion when we moved for a reduction on this account, it was discussed on the motion for reduction of Rs. 100 out of the total establishment. It would not have had any serious effect upon the Government at all, unless they had intended to carry out the wishes of the House. Such a motion when passed had not the desired effect. Therefore it is that I have proposed a reduction of Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment charges so that the Government may be obliged to take this Rs. 4,800 by giving real effect to the intention of this House.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: I think it is hardly in order.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Of course, there was a precedent not in this Horse but in the Madras Legislative Council upon which reliance was placed even last time.

PRESIDENT: I do not remember that.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether he knows that to give effect to the proposal would mean the cancelling of a contract entered into already?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I am coming to that. I was dealing only with the nature of the motion as it is and not on the merits of it. In regard to the latter point, I was waiting for the reasons stated by the Revenue Commissioner as to why the Government were not in a position to give effect to the motion passed last time by this House. Mr. Robinson's first point was that Government had already entered into a covenant with the Division Assistant.

MR. S.C.H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has misunderstood me. What I said was that I was not in a position to know at what date they commenced correspondence the result of which was the covenant. The contract is for three years and it is not possible to have it discontinued without breaking the contract.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The question is whether Government entered into that contract after ascertaining the wishes of this House.

PRESIDENT: I have not got any accurate recollection of the thing. But, I think that negotiations had too far advanced for retracting. The negotiations must have been concluded before this motion was brought up before the House last year.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The present Division Assistant took charge on the 12th Chingam, 1099.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): He was confirmed only subsequently.

PRESIDENT: There is no confirmation in his case.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): He has taken charge only after the motion in this House was passed.

PRESIDENT: That is true; but the covenant must have been concluded before the motion was made.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): At any rate my point is that that is not a sufficient reason for not carrying out the wishes of this House.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the member whether the existence of any contract was disclosed during the time of the last discussion?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): From that discussion I have not been able to see whether there was any such contract or contemplated contract, or whether the Government had contemplated any such contract.

PRESIDENT: It was not mentioned. Evidently it did not strike Mr. Robinson that it was necessary to mention it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): It was not mentioned. For the last few months when the Devicolam Commissioner had gone on leave both the duties were being performed by one and the same officer. This Division Assistant is now doing the duties of the Devicolam Commissioner as well. He is now at Devicolam and he has been doing his duties well at Devicolam. It is now some months since that arrangement was given effect to and I do not know whether the arrangement has been stated to be unsatisfactory. The only grounds stated are those which have already been stated during the last budget discussion and this House had taken all these facts into consideration when it originally passed this motion. I do not know whether there will be any useful purpose served by carrying this motion in this House because, when once a similar motion was carried, no effect has been given to it for reasons best known to Government —

PRESIDENT: One additional reason has been given and that is that a contract has been entered into with that officer.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): As they have already entered into a contract with that officer before the last budget session, the omission on the part of the Government to mention that fact at the last budget discussion would indicate that, after all, that was not an insurmountable obstacle. And especially, seeing that the Commissioner took charge only in Chingam, 1099, after the motion of this House against it was passed, I should consider that it is not a sufficient reason. At any rate, I would request this House once again to press their recommendation to Government that this place be abolished.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*). Sir, I think Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai does not rightly understand the difficulty about the position. Supposing the present incumbent in charge of the office is asked to go away. This would mean the breach of a contract that has already been entered into.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know when the contract was entered into—whether it was after the passing of the resolution or before the passing of the resolution?

PRESIDENT: Much before. It is an agreement between two Governments.

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): When was the agreement signed? Was it after the passing of the resolution or before the passing of the resolution?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It was about six months before the resolution that the negotiations were started. I ask the House if they are willing to lose a good name or to keep up a contract once started on. It has been started and it is now too late to withdraw. The House has already expressed its opinion last year. We know what the consequences will be if this motion is carried.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether the existence of the covenant is the only thing in the way of abolishing this post?

PRESIDENT: That is not what he says. The existence of the covenant is not the only thing against the acceptance of the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know how long it is since Mr. Cameron went on leave?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think it was published in the *Gazette*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I should like to know from the Land Revenue Commissioner whether he is in a position to tell us how long it is since the present incumbent, Mr. Cameron, went on leave?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is about two months since he went on leave.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*); May I know whether there is any special term in the covenant that he should be kept in a particular place or is to do a particular work?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not seen the covenant and I am not in a position to answer the member.

PRESIDENT: The covenant relates to a particular appointment.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How long is he to be in the service of Government?

PRESIDENT: For two years more as Mr. Robinson has already informed the House.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If the motion is passed, it will have serious consequences. It will mean putting a stop to the whole Department, and as it has already been brought to the notice of the Council, it involves the good name of the Government to go back upon and break the contract already entered into. So, I would ask Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai if he cannot withdraw the motion or in any way reduce it to some nominal sum.

PRESIDENT: I will put this motion to the vote of the House if Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai wishes to press it. But I must tell the House that its exact effect will have to be examined even if it is passed by the House. I am not sure whether it will be a motion that can be followed even if it is passed.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and declared carried, 23 voting *for* and 20 *against*.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—23.

1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
2. „ Paul V. Daniel.
3. „ A. Govinda Menon.
4. „ A. Hoogewerf.
5. „ C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
6. „ M. R. Madhava Variar.
7. The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
8. Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
9. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman.
10. „ T. Kumara Pillai.
11. „ N. Kumaran.
12. „ S. Krishna Aiyar.
13. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.
14. „ M. N. Pillai.
15. „ J. John Nidiry.
16. „ Joseph Panjikaran.
17. „ G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
18. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai (*Tiruvalla.*)
19. „ L. R. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran.
20. „ N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
21. „ C. Ramankunju.
22. „ C. Sankara Menon.
23. „ K. Dominic Tomman.

NOES—20.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai
3. „ K. George.
4. „ K. Govinda Pillai.
5. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai.
6. „ R. Krishna Pillai.
7. „ R. K. Krishna Pillai.
8. „ T. Lakshmana Pillai.
9. „ John Mackie.
10. „ K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
11. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
12. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Ag. Director of Agriculture.*)
13. „ P. Parmesvaran.
14. „ M. Raja Raja Varma.
15. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
16. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
17. „ J Stephenson.
18. „ V. Subba Aiyar.
19. „ S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
20. „ Trivikramar Vasudevar.

The motion was declared to have been carried.

Motion 4.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I rise to move the following:—

4. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 78,245 for Establishment by Rs. 100.*

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

The object of the motion is to discuss the question whether Devicolam should be retained as a separate division. In the light of the discussion with regard to the previous motion, almost all the facts which I have to advert to were brought out. But a doubt was entertained whether a motion passed by the Council with regard to a non-votable item would be accepted by the Government. But my motion does not relate to the Division Assistant or the Commissioner. It dealt with the question of abolition or the retention of the Devicolam Division. The Devicolam Division consists only of two taluks, *viz.*, Devicolam and Peermade. Mr. Krishna Aiyar and Mr. Dominic Tomman, who are conversant with the details of the administration in the Devicolam Division, have told us that there is not much work for a Division Assistant and for a Commissioner in Devicolam. When this question was discussed last time, Mr. Robinson opposed the motion on the ground that Devicolam Division is inaccessible from outside and that it consists of big *pakuthies* and that a responsible officer should be on the spot just to see that income tax is properly collected and criminal work is properly done.

First, with regard to the question of inaccessibility. The Devicolam Division is now under the District Superintendent of Quilon and moreover the forest jurisdiction of the Devicolam Division is under a Divisional Forest Officer who is not resident in Devicolam. If the Devicolam Division is accessible to a D. S. P. and a D. F. O., I do not know why it should not be accessible to a revenue officer who is staying in Kottayam and a Revenue Commissioner who is staying in Devicolam who will have to go to Devicolam if he is to proceed to Peermade. So it will be easy for a revenue officer to go to Peermade or to Devicolam. Considering the extent of the Revenue Divisions in the State I think it is ridiculous to have these two taluks as a separate division and to appoint high-paid officers to administer the Division.

Then, with regard to the second question of the bigness of *pakuthies*, Mr. Dominic Tomman has told us that the major portion of the Division consists of the Kannan Devan Hills and some grassy lands together with some estates, and out of 1,120 sq. miles of the Devicolam Division only 14 per cent. is cultivated and there are only about fifty-six thousand and odd persons living in the Devicolam Division, the major portion of whom are labourers. Even if the *pakuthies* are big, I do not think that the Revenue Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner is going to visit every corner of the *pakuthi* as they have no business to go there. The *proverthicar* and the Tahsildar will go there for revenue and other purposes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether he is not aware of the fact that the Commissioner or the Dewan Peishkar of the District has to inspect every *pakuthi* once in a year?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Yes, I know that the Dewan Peishkar or the Division Assistant

will have to visit the *pakuthies* once a year. I do not think that it is very difficult to visit all these *pakuthies* in Devicolam for the Dewan Peishkar in Kottayam *once in a year* and not once in a month. It is not very difficult and, moreover, these *pakuthies* are not populous, and as was stated by Mr. Dominic Tomman and Mr. Krishna Aiyar, most of them consist of grassy lands and reserve forest and some estates.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask whether the member has ever been up there?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I have not been there.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it possible for him to say anything definitely without having been there?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I think I must be convinced before I support the motion for the retention of the Devicolam Division. Though I have not gone to Devicolam, from the arguments advanced by the other members I think there is no necessity for the retention of Devicolam as a separate Division. Then, it was argued that it was kept for the development of cultivation in the Devicolam Division. Perhaps the Devicolam Division may be better cultivated after some time, and, when there is room for more collection of revenue, some other officers will have to be appointed for the collection of revenue but not a Revenue Commissioner or a Division Assistant for that matter.

With regard to the work that is done by the Revenue Commissioner and the Division Assistant the answers given by the Government to the questions asked by Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar merely show that these officers have not got sufficient work. So, considering all these facts it will be better for the Government to abolish the Devicolam Division. So I move to reduce Rs. 100 from this establishment.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I would oppose the motion on grounds of expediency as well as of necessity.

The isolated position of Devicolam, situated, as it is, about sixty miles away from the nearest inhabited place in the Kottayam Division, as well as its importance as a thriving centre of industry render it essential that there should be a responsible district officer on the spot. By whatever name you may call him, he should be one having all the powers of a Division Peishkar and District Magistrate.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether a Division Assistant would not do?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have already said no.

Upon his prestige and influence will depend the prestige of the Travancore Government at the place, and any attempt at interfering with this position will not, I fear, be beneficial to the interests of Government—that is, the country at large. Devicolam is mainly a colony of

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

European planters, that is Devicolam of the High Ranges, and the civilization there is mainly European in its inception and progress.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I beg to know from the Revenue Commissioner what revenue the whole Division will yield in a year?

PRESIDENT: What revenue?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): All kinds of revenue.

PRESIDENT: That is rather difficult.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I will tell the member presently. It is on His Highness' Government that the European planters who have vested interests there look for support, and committed, as they are to the care of His Highness the Maha Raja, they feel and recognise that their welfare is identical with the welfare of the State and deeply cherish in their heart the solicitude of His Highness for their continued well-being. It is the Commissioner at Devicolam they consider as the interpreter between them and Government, and the influence he can wield will entirely depend on the position you give him in the official *cadre*. Sir, I am not guided by personal motives in arguing my point, but I am only impressing upon the House the position as it is and as it ought to be of the district officer at Devicolam who stands between the Government of Travancore and the public there who are partly highly-paid Europeans and mostly irresponsible coolies from Tamil countries whose idea of the Government is formed on the position of the district officer stationed there. Any infringement of the privileges of his position will be highly deplored by them. If the House should consider that such an infringement is possible or necessary I can only say I regret.

I reiterate what I said before, that, whatever designation be given to the district officer, he ought to have all the powers of a Division Peishkar. For it will never be possible for the Division Peishkar of Kottayam to exercise any effective supervision over Devicolam even if the western outlet road is in good order, which I fear it is not in many parts of the year. It is no use drawing an analogy between the Revenue Department and the Forest or the P. W. Department. They do not have to be continually up there to superivse the work. So these two departments cannot be compared together. The P. W. D. has very little to do there, as the communications mostly belong to the K. D. H. P. Company, and the same thing must be said of the Forest Department also. The revenue work on the other hand at Devicolam is considerable and the income tax work is enormous. The income tax accruing to Government is more than two lakhs of rupees. The assessees are about sixty in number.

The land revenue demand as per last year's accounts is Rs. 2,33,867. At least for the sake of revenue it is essential that there should be a responsible officer like the Commissioner at Devicolam.

If you ask me whether an Assistant will not do, I will say it will never do on any grounds whatever. The officer stationed there should be one who has the power of taking the initiative whenever emergency occurs as well as at other times. An Assistant who is under the control of a superior officer stationed at Kottayam will not do for the station. I may say from my long experience at Devicolam that there is a large volume of official correspondence in the Devicolam Division, and most of it relates to important matters of dispute between the Government and others, and a district officer having some knowledge of the place and of locaic onditions is essential.

On all these grounds, I would request the House to think over the matter well before they hazard even a suggestion to Government which may be fraught with ever-lasting evil consequences in the interests of Government. The grant was passed last year and I ask the House not to go back on what it resolved last year.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Most of the arguments advanced by Mr. Robinson appear to turn round sentiment,—European colony, European officer and prestige.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not think that I mentioned that there should be a European officer. I never said such a thing.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I thought his very strong point was in favour of a European officer being stationed at Devicolam. If that is not a point, I have very little else to say. Mr. Madhava Variar has brought forward all the arguments in support of the motion.

PRESIDENT: There are both Europeans and Indians there.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It is a very big European colony. I understand that the idea that there should be only a European officer there is vanishing.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I never said that there should be a European officer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If that is not the strong argument advanced, the question is very easy for this House to solve, because there is nothing difficnlt in the revenue and other aspects of the question.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is the collection of Rs. 2 lakhs of income tax nothing?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): As pointed out by Mr. Krishna Aiyar the planters of the coffee estates and tea estates are gentlemen who send their money without any hitch.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I made no reflection on either the coffee estate people or the tea or rubber cultivator sor anybody else.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The District Superintendent of Police is stationed at Quilon and he has jurisdiction over Devicolam. This shows how very law-abiding the coffee estate and tea

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

estate Europeans and their coolies are. Mr. Robinson wants to make out the need for a District Magistrate at Devicolam for preservation of peace. But the District Superintendent of Police is several miles away.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it due to the District Superintendent of Police who is away from the place or the District Magistrate who is on the spot ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The very fact that the District Superintendent of Police who has to deal with the people, if they go beyond their bounds, is so far away from the District Magistrate is a proof that the Magistrate is simply a figure-head.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I have nothing more to say.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think this House is convinced that it is most undesirable to pass this motion. It may perhaps be possible to transfer some of the *pakuthies* in the Kottayam Division to the Devicolam Division, but to abolish the Devicolam Division is absolutely impossible in view of the amount of work that has to be carried on in that Division by an officer of the status of a Division Peishkar.

PRESIDENT: I will put this motion to the vote of the House.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

Motion 5.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

5. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,000 for travelling allowances of officers by Rs 1,000.

This allotment of Rs. 11,000 appears to be intended for the travelling allowances of the three Peishkars, the Commissioner, Devicolam, and eight Division Assistants. In view of the fact that one of the Division Assistants has been done away with by a previous motion, I believe a reduction of Rs. 1,000 must consequently follow. Further, I have to state that the actual amount of money spent in 1097 appears to be Rs. 13,470. The budget allotment for 1098 was only 10,000. It may be argued that there was a reduction of one Peishkar. But there is the other fact that the number of Division Assistants was increased from six to eight in the very same year. So that, the reduction of one Peishkar cannot affect the figure at all. And the actual amount that has been spent on this account in 1098 was only Rs. 10,691. Now that the travelling allowance of one Division Assistant according to the previous motion has to be deducted from the amount, I think a sum of Rs. 10,000 will be quite enough and that Mr. Robinson will accept the reduction. I see that in the budget itself the amount alloted for the travelling allowance of the establishment came to Rs. 4,145 in 1098 and a reduction of Rs. 145 has been made in the provision for the same in

the budget. Taking all these into consideration I think that my proposal for a reduction of a small sum of Rs. 1,000 will be accepted, especially in view of the fact that the previous motion for doing away one of the Division Assistants has been passed.

PRESIDENT: The motion was not to do away with the Division Assistant. But it was about the allotment under establishment. That was the motion that was passed.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I may state here at the outset that the travelling allowance drawn by the Division Assistant at Peermade is very little. The Division Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, have always complained that they have not got the necessary allotment for travelling allowance to enable them to do the touring work which they have to do. The House has more than once expressed its desire that officers should tour about more frequently and all over the country, and if they ought to do that, more funds ought to be granted. A sum of Rs. 13,000 was asked for in the departmental budget, but the Government have cut it down to 11,000. The sum provided in the budget is meant to cover the travelling allowance of three Division Peishkars, the Commissioner, Devicolam, and eight Division Assistants and three Divisional Treasury Officers. With the introduction of the annual *Jamàbandi* and the Revenue Division charges, the Division Assistants have become more or less touring officers. They have got inspection work, *Jamabandi* work and other works. These officers will have additional touring work in connection with the ensuing election of members for the next Legislative Council. As it is highly necessary that these officers should go on circuit very often to the several offices subordinate to them and gain first-hand information as to the actual state of affairs, I am sorry that I have to strongly oppose any reduction in the allotment already provided for. The amount provided for is itself barely sufficient to meet the requirements of the year. If the officers should do more touring work, the necessary funds should be granted. The House, surely, does not want them to go round living on the land. They have heavy expenses in travelling in the way of cart hire, toll, T. B. fees and even feeding their low-paid followers. Take for instance the present time of distress. How is it possible for officers to go round seeing the distress and to ascertain what steps are necessary to relieve people and to whom relief should be granted, if adequate funds are not granted to meet their travelling allowance? In fact I would ask the members for more funds being given as originally recommended by me. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I oppose the motion on a different ground. Whether the allotment be Rs. 11,000 or 10,000 the amount actually availed of by the officer will be the figure that is due under the head of travelling allowance. It does not matter what the allotment is. If he covers a certain number of miles he will have to be paid on that ground. I too oppose the motion.

[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapallai.]

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Sir, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 6 to 9.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

6. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,000 for travelling allowances of officers by Rs. 10.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

7. To omit the allotment of Rs. 135 for hot weather charges.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

8. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for fuel reserve in Devicolam by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON:

9. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,315 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 100.

Motion 10.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): I beg to move the following motion:—

10. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,315 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 10.

My object in sending up this motion is in the first place to suggest the desirability of abolishing the Peishkars and creating Assistant Commissioners. From the time of the creation of a Land Revenue Commissioner it has been repeatedly suggested in this House as well as elsewhere to abolish the post of the Division Peishkars and to create Assistant Commissioners on a smaller pay.

I need not here repeat all the arguments in favour of such a step. The arrangement will, besides making a good saving, go to a great extent to solve the much-agitated problem of separating the judiciary from the executive.

What the Dewan has said in his presidential address at the twentieth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, regarding the work of the Division Assistants, is equally true as regards the work of the Division Peishkars. He says:

"It is becoming increasingly evident that the Division Assistants are unable to keep clear of arrears on account of the substantial addition which the revenue and income and all functions have contributed to their otherwise exclusively magisterial work, while the restrictions to their movements imposed by considerations of convenience to the litigant public are militating against their usefulness as revenue officers. Possibly their revenue duties have also the effect of hampering their work as Magistrates."

From this we see that the Government themselves keenly feel the desirability of separating these two functions. When these two functions are separated, certainly, there will be no further necessity of retaining a highly-paid officer of the Division Peishkar's status.

Moreover the appointment of Assistant Revenue Commissioners, as has been pointed out in this House, will make the land revenue work smooth all round,

In the second place, I wish to urge once more on the Government the immediate necessity of doing away with the present system of promotion to the higher offices of the Divisions from the Devaswom Department. This matter has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government both publicly and privately. I understand that the present Dewan himself, soon after the Devaswom separation was effected, admitted the great injustice of this arrangement in conversation. But like many other things it continues as before. Even during the last two days, this question, as well as the general recruitment to the Revenue Department, formed the subject of much complaint from some of the members. It is most gratifying to know that the members of the favoured communities are in full sympathy with our aspirations and claims. I waited patiently to hear from the Financial Secretary some explanation or at least a word of consolation in regard to this matter which concerns the interests of two-thirds of His Highness' subjects. But his lips appeared to have been completely sealed on this point, although he had so much to say about so many other things of comparatively little importance.

The only conclusion that we can draw from this silence is that the Government attach little or no importance to the legitimate claims of about 30 out of 40 lakhs of His Highness' subjects.

PRESIDENT: There was hardly time for official members to have their say.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): He did not say a single word in regard to that. It may be because we are loyal to the backbone, not clamorous, have no god-fathers and take everything lying down. I would beg of you, Sir, not to forget the fact that the school master is abroad and that this is an age of democracy. Even a worm may turn. Parochial and partisan methods of administration should give way to generosity, high-mindedness and statesmanship. Please do not think that we are on our knees begging for special favours. As citizens of a free land we claim only bare justice and fair-play.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I oppose the motion. No reason has been shown as to why the Division Peishkars should be abolished. The member's speech refers mostly to equal rights to all communities among His Highness' subjects in Government service. There is no objection to making a change in the designation, but I do not think that will do any good. A change in the designation may not affect the power but the respect and prestige of Government. I do not think it is necessary for me to go into the point. I have written a long speech about it, but the points I have touched have not been touched by the member and no reason shown why the Division Peishkars should be abolished. The post of Peishkars is more or less equal to that of the Collector in British India. It has been existing here from time immemorial, and I do not think the House will vote for the abolition of these Peishkars.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. The question of separating the functions of the judiciary and the executive is being examined, but that would not dispense with the necessity of having Peishkars who are District Magistrates and are responsible for the peace of their districts and for co-ordinating the work of the subordinate revenue and magisterial officers under them.

In regard to the question of recruitment incidentally raised by Rev. Father Vettikkapalli, I should like to say a word. This question is engaging the serious attention of Government, and the Director of Office Systems and myself are tackling it at the present moment. The House forgets that a serious consideration of the question earlier was premature in view of the stoppage of recruitment during the retrenchment, and the figures of retrenchment made subsequently were available to Government not long ago. A critical examination of the figures along with other work is not an easy matter, and any conclusion drawn and methods devised in undue haste would be comparatively valueless. Nor is the question so easy of solution as some of my non-official friends seem to imagine. Even in this House, there are differences of opinion as to the methods best calculated to remedy the defect. While some members advocate the introduction of a competitive examination, others question its appropriateness. Mr. Madhava Variar, for example, suggested the introduction of a competitive examination for recruitment to the service. It might be well to introduce a system of direct recruitment to the higher grade in certain departments by throwing a fixed percentage of the appointments to open competition. Such an arrangement would no doubt ensure efficiency and also would be an effective safeguard against official jobbery, but it clashes with the principle of communal representation.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the Government accept the principle of communal representation in the public service?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government consider that all communities should have equal opportunities to enter the public service.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Do the Government accept the principle of percentage of communal representation in respect of—

PRESIDENT: There is no question of percentage. The whole question is being examined. As the Chief Secretary said, it is not very easy of solution.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): What length of time will the Government require to come to a conclusion?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question is being considered. I do not think it will be very long before the Government could to come to a conclusion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Will it take, say, six months?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say definitely.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): We have got a statement from the Government which gives the number of caste Hindus and others who have been appointed in the Revenue Department since the separation of the Devaswom Department. Does this recruitment tally with the declared policy of the Government to give equal opportunities to all communities?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As mentioned already, recruitment was stopped during retrenchment. In regard to the appointments made by heads of departments since recruitment recommenced, the figures were available only recently. The figures are being examined. Government are also examining how heads of departments have exercised their powers of patronage. Unless the whole thing is carefully examined, it is not possible to say definitely when they will come to a conclusion.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): When the separation of the Devaswom Department was made, were not circulars sent to heads of departments as to the method of recruiting, especially to the Land Revenue Commissioner?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No circulars were issued in regard to appointments.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): So it has been left as free as before.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have not arrived at any conclusion in regard to the question of recruitment. The whole question is being considered. The figures in regard to appointments subsequent to the separation of the Devaswom department from the Revenue Department and subsequent to the recommencement of recruitment are being carefully examined. Unless all these figures are examined it would be difficult to arrive at any conclusion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): So far as the figures that have arrived are concerned, is he in a position to say whether appointments were rightly made by the several officers?

PRESIDENT: That is the very thing that is being examined.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanacherry* cum *Minachil*): May I know the result so far as the examination has proceeded?

PRESIDENT: The examination is going on.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Has the principle of representation by percentage of literacy been placed before Government for their consideration?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): By whom?

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Then where is the saving?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): If you are very particular of having highly-paid District Magistrates, I have no objection. There must be some satisfactory way of carrying on revenue and magisterial functions.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know from Mr. Nidiry, what is the pay of the Additional District Magistrate of Nagercoil?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): That is new information to me. I thought there was only a Division Assistant with first class powers.

My submission, therefore, is that for the better discharge of the magisterial function a separation is highly necessary. Further, since we have got eight Division Assistants, and I hear some more are contemplated to be appointed, I think, along with these eight Division Assistants to have some three or four Division Peishkars with a Land Revenue Commissioner at the head, is a superfluity which could be avoided with great advantage.

I said in the last year's discussion that on account of the high status of the Dewan Peishkars there is no smooth working between the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Dewan Peishkars. So, for the smooth working of the Revenue Department also, the abolition will be desirable.

Sir, with regard to recruitment to the Revenue Department, as I have already indicated in my speech in connection with the general discussion, I am very sorry that, even after the separation of the Devaswoms, the Government are very inactive about the long-standing complaint of two-thirds of His Highness' subjects. It was a long-standing complaint that the revenue line was not open to them. The Revenue Department was separated two or three years ago. Even now things are going on as they were. The Chief Secretary has said that the Government are considering the matter. I think that sort of explanation is highly unsatisfactory. To decide a question which involves the vital interests of two-thirds of His Highness' subjects in such a lazy manner is quite unbecoming. If the Government are going to continue this sort of contemplative attitude, I do not know what will be the feelings of thirty lakhs of His Highness' subjects. If the Government propose to adopt such a leisurely and contemplative attitude, I do not think that it will be commendable to the Government themselves or that it will be acceptable to this House or to the people in general. I am strongly of the opinion that this contemplative spirit should be put an end to and it is

high time for the Government to come to a definite conclusion at an early stage. With these observations I support the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. The functions now devolving upon the Division Peishkars and discharged by them have to be worked out by some officer or other. Whether we call them Division Peishkars or Assistant Commissioners it is quite immaterial. The work has got to be done. The rose though called by any other name may smell sweet.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is there not another difficulty? The expression 'Division Peishkars' occurring in several Regulations and other orders will have to be changed.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Certainly.

The only argument put forward was that, at present, in the matter of recruitment, there was some difficulty or that recruitment was not proceeding in a manner which appeals to the mind of Rev. Fr. Vettikkappali and Mr. Nidiry. What that has to do with the abolition of the post of Division Peishkars and constituting the place of Assistant Commissioners is beyond me at any rate to understand. I also heard one other argument advanced by Mr. Nidiry about the separation of judicial and executive functions by appointing Assistant Commissioners in lieu of Division Peishkars. I do not know how it is going to affect that principle or position. Under these circumstances I do not see any argument that has been advanced in favour of abolishing Peishkars and creating Assistant Commissioners.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I beg to support the motion with a qualification which will be necessary in view of the speeches already delivered. The existing Division Peishkars have survived their times; that is to say, they came into being at a time entirely different from our own time. The Division Peishkars used to be something like satraps ruling over various Divisions of the State. That position has practically been now knocked on the head and they have been subordinated to the Land Revenne and Income Tax Commissioner. Further, much of the work that used to devolve upon Division Peishkars has also been removed. All the same, they continue in the pristine form in which they were brought into existence and it is time to see whether it will not be profitable, so far as the finances of the State are concerned, to appoint some other sort of officers in the place of Division Peishkars and effect a separation of the Judicial from the Revenue Department.

Again, tucked away under this particular motion, have been a number of questions with respect to the representation of various communities in Government service, especially in the Revenue Department and a number of kindred questions. With respect to that aspect, Sir, this House has been unanimous in one respect, *viz.*, that equal opportunities should be

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

afforded to all sections of His Highness' subjects to be represented in the services of the State. I must emphatically repudiate the idea that was given expression to yesterday by one of my friends on the non-official side when he said that such a suggestion has been turned down on a prior occasion and even ridiculed. I distinctly remember the utterances on that occasion, and it was to the effect that, conditions being equal, on the ground that an applicant belongs to a particular community, when he aspires to Government service, absolutely no barrier should be created in his pathway. That was the idea that was given expression to on that occasion and in the paramount interests of the State it was also distinctly pointed out that we cannot afford to lose sight of the principle of efficiency. It was without understanding the real discussion which took place on that occasion that the observation was made that the idea of equal opportunity to all communities was ridiculed in this House. I would even now insist that the principle of efficiency should be kept in the forefront. But we see that under the guise of the principle of efficiency various malpractices are resorted to [Mr. T. Kumara Pillai: "*Hear, hear*"]—and questionable ways are also adopted by heads of departments, so much so that, what the learned Chief Secretary pointed out as immoderate criticism is inevitably indulged in. Immoderate abuses, certainly, Sir, call for immoderate criticism, and the Government alone must be held responsible for evoking such criticism. Instances have been pointed out in this House, where extremely questionable methods have been adopted by certain departmental heads in the matter of appointments. I ask what the Dewan of the State has done in the case of those officers thus unmasked in public. Nothing, so far as this House knows, was done, and hence probably all this anxiety for retaining the purity of the services and for giving equal opportunities to all communities. If strong criticism has been resorted to, the criticized, like philosophers, would have to reconcile themselves to the lot in the circumstances. The matter is one which requires clear and immediate attention. To that extent, I agree, generally with the criticism that was levelled against the Government with respect to appointments. To that extent, the question deserves attention, but not at the sacrifice of efficiency which, at all events, will have to be steadily kept in view. Of course, there is an amount of haziness in the complaint that has been made on the principle of representation. How are representative appointments to be made? Is it simply by a reckoning of the heads constituting the various communities or is it merely by taking into consideration the educated section of the different communities? On what particular principle the question has to be tackled, has not been definitely formulated by anybody. That is why, I say, there is an amount of haziness in the criticism. But, all the same, certain things are brought to the notice of this House year after year. Facts have been brought out in discussions, where *prima facie* a more qualified man has been

elbowed out, with little justification so far as the outside world is concerned, for the appointment of a man with decidedly inferior qualification. If such facts are brought to the notice of the Government and the Government are blind about them, then occasionally, intemperate language may originate from this side of the House which will have to be excused and listened to patiently by Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, no man can serve two masters. Both in the interest of law and order and revenue the separation suggested by Father Vettikkapalli is very sound. Duplication of functions cannot tend to efficiency. The Dewan Peishkar cannot do both functions satisfactorily. He has always a tendency to shirk his magisterial work. Divided responsibility also cannot produce good results. The Dewan Peishkar is far too big a man to be placed under the Revenue Commissioner. He always thinks of his former prestige, etc., and finds it very difficult to have an intermediary between himself and the Government.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know what are the grounds for that assertion?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That is a fact.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): As far as I know I do not think so.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Coming to the question of representation I should begin by thanking and congratulating one of the leaders of this House, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, on the high stand he has taken on this question. There are very many members on this side of the House who take a similar stand and who are ready to give the right hand of fellowship to the backward classes—thirty lakhs of the population who are not properly represented in the public service. I subscribe to every word of Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli on this very important question. I was surprised to hear from the Chief Secretary, of whom I have always entertained the highest respect, that the Government, in spite of the returns that have been placed before us, are still considering the matter! We do not want any preferential treatment to be given to any community. Efficiency certainly, as stated by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, can never be sacrificed in the interests of the public service. We want only justice and fair-play. I have very close knowledge of this matter, because I have interested myself on behalf of several graduates belonging to the communities, to the religion of which I also belong. Every door seems to be closed. Mr. Robinson was kind enough to take one man after a great deal of hammering at the door.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member how many men there are in the Department?

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am not in charge of the Department. But from the returns I see many people not belonging to the community that I am referring to having been taken since the separation.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): By which officer?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The Revenue Commissioner is responsible for the sins of ommission and commission of his subordinates. (*Laughter.*)

To repeat, Sir, we want only justice and fair-play. Things cannot go on as they do. We want more generous treatment. I interested myself in a young graduate, a B. A. (Hons.) who came here the other day to get a place on the staff of the Arts College. I went to the Chief Secretary who was very kind and said that the report about appointments had gone to the Dewan at Courtallum and asked me to hurry up with the application. I saw Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar, who was also sympathetic. And the Dewan very kindly appointed the man to the place. This is the sort of sympathy and kindness that we expect from the Government. In the interests of Government and in the interests of the people, the Government should take a wider aspect of the whole question.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഡിവിഷൻപേഷ്കാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തവരാണ്. ഞാൻ ബഡ്ജറ്റിന്റെ പൊതുവിമർശനത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു വലിയ പ്രയോജനമൊന്നുമില്ല. ആ സ്ഥാനത്തേക്ക് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണറന്മാരെ വച്ചാൽ മതിയാകുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടധികാരംകൂടിയുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ഉപദ്രവമുണ്ട്. താശീൽദാരന്മാരിൽനിന്നു മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടധികാരം എടുത്തുകളഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു ഗുണമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും പൂർണ്ണമായ ഗുണം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരുടെ മേലധികാരം വഹിക്കുന്ന ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരും റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരല്ലാതിരിക്കണം. റവന്യൂഭരണം ശരിയായി നടക്കുന്നതിനും അതാണ് നല്ലത്.

റവന്യൂ ദേവസ്വം വിഭജനംകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല. അതും ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതാണ്. ഡിവിഷൻ കച്ചേരികളിലും താലൂക്കുകച്ചേരികളിലും നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അവ പണ്ടത്തെ മാതിരി സ്വർണ്ണമയമായിരിക്കുന്നേയുള്ളു. ഞാൻ സ്വർണ്ണ

വർഗ്ഗത്തെ വിദ്വേഷിച്ചു പറയുന്നതല്ല. അവരും ഈ രാജ്യമാകുന്ന മഹാഭവനത്തിൽ തുല്യാവകാശമുള്ള സഹോദരന്മാർതന്നെ. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം അവരെത്തന്നെ വയ്ക്കുന്നത് അവരുടെ തെററല്ല മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുടെ തെററാണ്. റവന്യൂവകുപ്പിൽ ഫൻവ്യ നിയമനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഫന്നവ്യ-ം പണ്ടേതന്നെ ഈ വകുപ്പിലെ എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും വഹിച്ചുവരുന്ന സവർണ്ണസമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ. സത്യവും നീതിയുമാകുന്ന മാനദണ്ഡങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് അളക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ധർമ്മരാജ്യത്തെ ഈ നയം എത്രയോ അധർമ്മമാണെന്നുകാണാം. പ്രജകളിൽഏതെങ്കിലും ചില വകുപ്പുകളിൽനിന്നു സംഭരിക്കുന്ന മുതൽ കൊണ്ടല്ല പൊതുമുതൽ കൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ വകുപ്പിലും ശമ്പളം നൽകുന്നതെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും എല്ലാ വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ട വകുപ്പാണിത്. അധികമുതലെടുപ്പും പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കാരോട് അധിക ഇടപാടുമുള്ളതും ഈ വകുപ്പാണ്. രാജ്യകാര്യങ്ങളുടെ എല്ലായിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതും ഈ വകുപ്പാണ്. എന്തെന്നാൽ, നിയമസഭ, പ്രജാസഭ, മുതലായതിനു തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു സംബന്ധിച്ച നടപടികൾനടത്തുന്നതും ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു മുഖേനയാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഇവിടെ എല്ലാവർക്കും ശരിയായവിധം പ്രവേശനമുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അതിലേയ്ക്കാണ് റവന്യൂ ദേവസ്വം വിഭജനം നടത്തിയതെന്നു ചീഫ്സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾ പറകയുണ്ടായി.

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): എന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞില്ല. അതു തെററാണ്. പ്രധാനമായ ഉദ്ദേശം ദേവസ്വത്തിന്റെ—

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ആകട്ടെ അഹിന്ദുക്കൾക്കും അവർണ്ണഹിന്ദുക്കൾക്കും പ്രവേശനം നൽകണമെന്നുള്ളതും ഒരുദ്ദേശമായിരുന്നുവല്ലോ. അത് ഇപ്പോൾ വിഫലമായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നത്. അതിനു റവന്യൂ കമ്മിഷണരെ കുററം പറയാൻ പാടുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. നിയമനത്തിൽ ഫൻവ്യ-ൽ ഫന്നവ്യ-ം സവർണ്ണരാണ്. കമ്മിഷണർ അങ്ങനെ പക്ഷപാതബുദ്ധിയുള്ള ആളല്ല. ഇതു മിക്കവാറും പേഷ്കാരന്മാരുടേയും തഹശീൽദാർമാരുടേയും കുറെയെല്ലാം അധികം ഉപരിസ്ഥാനത്തിരിക്കുന്നവരുടേയും പ്രവൃത്തിയായിരിക്കണം. എന്നാൽ നീതിക്കു തീരെ യോജിച്ചതല്ല. രാജ്യത്തിലെ ധർമ്മത്തിനുതന്നെ ഹാനിതട്ടുന്ന ഇത്തരം പ്രവൃത്തികളാൽ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിനു

[The Rev. Father Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.]

ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ധൎമ്മരാജ്യമെന്നുള്ള സൽകീൎത്തിക്കുതന്നെ ഭംഗം വരുന്നതും. അത് എല്ലാ സ്വദേശികൾക്കും വ്യസനകരമായ ഒന്നാണ്. ഈ പ്രധാന ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെന്റിൽ ചില വൎഗ്ഗക്കാൎക്കു മാത്രമേ ഇനിയും പ്രവേശനം നല്കാവൂ എന്നു ഗവൎമ്മെന്റു വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് പ്രത്യക്ഷമായ അനീതിയാണ് എന്നു മനുഷ്യവൎഗ്ഗത്തെയും ധൎമ്മത്തെയും സ്നേഹിക്കുന്ന ഏവരും തുറന്നു പറയും. അധൎമ്മത്തെ എല്ലാവരും വെറുക്കേണ്ടതാണല്ലോ. ഈ നയത്തെ ഉടനെ മാററണം. അതിനുതകുന്ന ഒരു മാൎഗ്ഗം ഈ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കുന്നതാണ്. സവൎണ്ണതഹശീൽദാരന്മാരിൽ ചിലർ ദേവസ്വം ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെന്റിൽ പോയി കുറെക്കൂടി ഉയൎന്നതരത്തിൽ ഡിവിഷൻ അസിസ്റ്റൻറായി കുറച്ചുകാലം ഇരുന്നിട്ടു പേഷ്കാരന്മാരായി തീരും. അതു ശരിയല്ല. നീതിയും സത്യവും ഒരു വൎഗ്ഗക്കാരുടേയും പ്രത്യേക സ്വത്തല്ല. അതു പൊതുമുതലാണ്. അതിനെ എല്ലാവരും പരിപാലിക്കുവാൻ ചുമതലയുണ്ട്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പൊതു നന്മയെക്കരുതുന്നവർ അനീതി നിൎത്തണം. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ളവരും (*laughter*) എല്ലാ വൎഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽപെട്ടവരും എല്ലാഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെന്റിലും പ്രത്യേകം ഈ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെന്റിലും ന്യായാനുസരണം പ്രവേശനം നൽകണം. ഇത്രയും പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെ ശക്തിയായി പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

The Council adjourned at 2-30 and re-assembled at 3-17 P. M.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, I support the motion moved by Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli. All the same I would request him that in view of the assurance given by the Chief Secretary he will be good enough to withdraw the motion.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 11 to 30.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

11. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,315 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 10

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :

12. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,091 under temporary establishment for the pay of an additional Assistant Tahsildar, clerks and peons for clearing arrears of puduval work in the Nedumangad taluk.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

13. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for improvement of markets by Rs. 10.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

14. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for land acquisition charges.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

15. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for land acquisition charges.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

16. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

17. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

18. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

19. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

20. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

21. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

22. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,22,040 for Taluk Cutcherries by Rs. 100.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI:

23. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,22,040 for Taluk Cutcherries by Rs. 10.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

24. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,22,040 for Taluk Cutcherries by Rs. 10.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

25. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

26. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

27. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI:

28. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,92,800 for Proverthi Cutcherries by Rs. 10.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

29. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600 for travelling allowances by Rs. 200.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

30. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,880 for Office Assistant etc., by Rs. 1,500.

Motion 31.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

31. To omit the allotment of Rs. 27,751 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons,

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Sir, this subject has been engaging the attention of this House from year to year. The subject is one about which there has been considerable trial of strength between the Government and the non-officials during the past two years. Sir, I beg to point out that many of us on this side of the House are not convinced of the necessity of continuing this temporary scheme for another year as well.

The Assistant Tahsildars were originally intended for disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases, for detection of encroachment on *porambokes* and for bringing up-to-date the B register, and also for *puduval* subdivision work below ten acres of land. Subsequently, the Assistant Tahsildars were removed from the taluk establishment and were placed under the Land Records Superintendent. With that, the bringing of the B register up-to-date has not been attended to by the Assistant Tahsildars. The disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases has been now taken away from them as per Government proceedings passed in Makaram 1099. So, then, the main function that appertains to this class of officers now is the detection of encroachments and survey of *porambokes*. This special staff has been attending to this work for the last two years, and it has been stated that they have been able to dispose of a considerable portion of the arrears that accumulated while the old system was in force. Thus then, *prima facie*, it would appear that it should be possible for the normal *pakuthi* staff, namely, the land revenue staff, to attend to this work which legitimately appertains to them. Of course, it need not be repeated that originally, when the Assistant Tahsildars were appointed, the Tahsildar had to attend to the Devaswom and magisterial functions as well. Whenever it was stated from this side of the House that the Tahsildars of to-day are not so heavily worked as they were when they had Devaswom and magisterial functions as well, it has been stated rather vaguely that they are still heavily worked and that they still continue to be officers with multifarious duties. As for that matter they will ever continue to be so and that can never be a justification for their not being engaged in what may be regarded as their legitimate work, *viz.*, land records maintenance. We do not complain of the land records maintenance work as such. But we do complain of the separate agency and the additional expenditure that has to be incurred on account of the employment of this additional agency.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether he is aware of the revenue that is derived on account of the appointment of the staff? And is he aware of the portion of the revenue derived from the land records maintenance work?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Unfortunately that is a question which I want to ask him when he stands up to oppose my motion. I shall certainly avail myself of the opportunity then. From the figures that have been supplied to us we have not been

able to ascertain the revenue that has been derived as a result of the actual work of the special staff employed for land records maintenance. No separate figures are available and we shall be very glad if the Land Revenue Commissioner will supply the figures in time.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): In case Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai is under the impression that the department is costing extra money to Government I think it will be better to let him know—

PRESIDENT: You may give the figures in your reply.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, to make myself clear to the Land Revenue Commissioner, I might at once state that the expenditure that is incurred after the special agency was created must necessarily be higher than what it used to be prior to the establishment of this special staff which must necessarily have been lower than what it is now. The original land records maintenance work was done by the regular *pakuthi* staff aided by the taluk surveyors, who are now no more attached to the land revenue section of the department. The taluk surveyors who were assisting the Tahsildars in the performance of the taluk work were paid only Rs. 25-40, while the Assistant Tahsildars who are appointed as the executive assistants of the Tahsildars are paid Rs. 75-100. The cost must necessarily be much higher than it used to be. The mere transfer of a few taluk surveyors from the Land Revenue Department to the Survey Department cannot have the effect of decreasing the expenditure on that account. It has been suggested from year to year that this work of detection of *porambokes* is being done not only in the interests of revenue but also in the interests of the people. I do concede that a proper conservation of the *porambokes* is absolutely necessary and that the work has to be done in a satisfactory manner. The only question is whether this additional agency has been performing their duty in accordance with law and whether the work that has been done already is such as would justify an additional expenditure. Sir, I might bring to your notice the fact that Rule 35 framed under Section 14 of the Survey and Boundaries Regulation which deals with the land records maintenance work, namely, the maintenance, repairs and renewing of survey stones, is to this effect: "The *porambokes* which have been created as additional revenue numbers or survey fields should be demarcated strictly in accordance with the measurements recorded in the original survey." So far, it is all correct. However the rule adds that when such *porambokes* become broader such *porambokes* should be demarcated and measured as per the existing limits. Now, Sir, it needs no argument from me to show that such preparation of the sketches of field measurements will certainly be prejudicial to the people. For, it is *not* to be done in accordance with *the original survey measurements* when, owing to the negligence or otherwise of the adjoining registry-holders, they allow a part of their ground adjoining a *poramboke*—

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I correct Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai? That rule has since been altered.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know when that rule was altered?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Last month or so.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Last month! This rule which has been in force for the last three years seems to have been *now* altered, evidently for good reasons. I presume that the Government were satisfied that this rule which was being acted upon by the Assistant Tahsildars was contrary to law and was opposed even to public policy. Now then, the work which these Assistant Tahsildars have been doing till now under these rules must be all a costly waste. One of their primary duties was the survey of the *porambokes* and the preparation of field sketches and the transmission of these sketches of *porambokes* to the regular taluk offices for taking action. These sketches which have been prepared, presumably, under Rule 35 must necessarily be treated as waste paper, for they have been doing something which they were not, under law, authorised to do, and which has encroached upon the private rights of citizens. For the performance of such duties we have been voting year after year to the extent of about Rs. 27,000. I am really glad to know that the rule has been altered. But that does not make any alteration in my position. For it is only hereafter that the real work of the Assistant Tahsildars has to begin. The work done up till now is absolute waste. At least hereafter let us hope that the land records maintenance work will be carried out in accordance with law and by the proper agency. Sir, complaints have come to my notice from several persons that renewals of stones and repairs of survey marks have been insisted upon without due notification being given as required by law under Regulation X of 1094. A notification has to be issued under the Regulation and the objection of the parties has to be heard, and then if they fail to plant these stones, then alone can Government plant these stones and even then an account has to be sent to the parties stating the cost incurred by the Government.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask whether similar omissions and irregularities might not accrue even if the work is done by the normal staff?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That is not an answer to the argument that I have been advancing. That only adds to the force of my argument. I say that in spite of the additional staff there are numerous complaints that they have not understood the rules and do not act in accordance with law. At any rate we find that the result of their work has been the creation of complaints

from the people that they are being taken unawares by the issue of demand notices for the recovery of the value of the stones planted.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I ask, will these complaints disappear by abolishing the Assistant Tahsildars and by reverting to the normal staff?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): At any rate such complaints will not be as numerous as they are at present, if the Tahsildars concerned, the responsible revenue officers of the locality, have got some responsibility in regard to land records maintenance. As it is, the Tahsildar is entirely divorced from the sphere of activity relating to land records work.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): In olden days, when the Tahsildars had been doing the work, did not the work get into fearful arrears?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I should consider it very unfortunate that Government did not do what was proper and see that these Tahsildars did not commit any dereliction of duty. Here is one of the important duties appertaining to the Land Revenue Department and it would appear that the Tahsildars in olden days, for justifiable reasons, as stated by Government, were unable to get on with their duties, thereby allowing arrears to accumulate. I am not here to advocate the cause of the Tahsildars of old, but I am here to attack both the Tahsildars and the present land record authorities for their great remissness of duty and for the hardships caused by them to the poor land-holders of the country. Now, Sir, my point is that if, as a matter of fact, the Tahsildars had been put in direct charge of such work and the Dewan Peishkars—who are now relieved considerably of Devaswom work and even of some of their magisterial duties owing to the provision for Division Assistants who are now doing most of the magisterial work—had control and responsibility for the land records work, I should consider that it would have been possible for the Dewan Peishkar and the Tahsildar to devote greater personal attention to the land records maintenance work and thereby alleviate the sufferings of the people. As it is, there is only the Land Records Superintendent to hear complaints. The people have to look up to him as the final authority in the matter. He is independent even of the Dewan Peishkars who are district officers and who are responsible for the revenue collection. Such irregularities, as I already mentioned, I should certainly consider will not exist in case the regular normal *pakuthi* staff is put in charge of the work. In spite of these isolated species of officers having no responsibility either to the division officers or even to the Land Revenue Commissioner, these irregularities have wrought very serious harm to the land-holders of the country. It cannot be stated with any sense of fairness that the work of these Assistant Tahsildars has throughout been in favour of the people. It has certainly not been in the interests of the people and so I should consider it desirable that we do not perpetuate this particular establishment any further.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai whether he is aware that the Tahsildar has not been completely divested of the work? The Assistant Tahsildar has to make references to the Tahsildars—

PRESIDENT: Do you explain or are you putting a question?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am asking him whether he is aware that the Assistant Tahsildar has to make reports to the Tahsildar and that the Tahsildar has to give his opinion in the matter.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The answer is simple. It is not open to the Tahsildar to say in regard to a particular case: "This is not an encroachment." The Assistant Tahsildar prepares a sketch. It is not open to the Tahsildar to say: "This sketch is wrong," because the Assistant Tahsildar is an expert under the Land Records Superintendent. The Tahsildar has only to refer to the Land Records Superintendent and cannot say anything himself. The Tahsildar is not allowed to use his own discretion in the matter. He has only to act upon the sketch presented before him by the Assistant Tahsildar. I should like, certainly, to be informed whether there have been cases in which the Tahsildar has set aside the recommendation of the Assistant Tahsildar, and, if so, how many cases there are in which the Tahsildar has chosen to set aside the sketches prepared by the Assistant Tahsildar and refused to act thereupon.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): On the other hand I would ask him whether he can quote any instance where it has been shown that the report of the Assistant Tahsildars has been proved to be wrong.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I will only quote the very many appeal cases pending before the Division Cutcherry at Trivandrum as to the erroneous sketches prepared by the Assistant Tahsildars and accepted as correct by the Tahsildar. I refer to the series of *poramboke* cases taken by the side of the Neyyar river in contravention of the Government Proceedings. I was myself about to refer to that fact. Under the old demarcation rules it would appear that the survey officers were allowed to plant the survey stones about six feet in the interior of the registered holdings on the side of rivers and channels. It seems that these survey stones have now been found out and that the six feet of ground have been taken to be *porambokes* and a series of cases taken up. People who have planted trees on their registered holdings under the impression that the land forms part of their registered holdings, about which there has been absolutely no dispute for the last 100 years and more, have been proceeded against and fines have been imposed under the Land Conservancy Regulation. A series of cases were taken up during the days of Sir P.Rajagopalachariar and then

it was that Government passed the proceedings saying that in all such cases they should be registered in favour of the adjoining land-holder free even of *tararila* and *pattas* granted. More than 150 cases have come to my notice and in all these cases the Tahsildar has been basing his decision on the sketches prepared by the Assistant Tahsildars. All these cases are only pending disposal before the Dewan Peishkar.

PRESIDENT: I think I have seen some of them. The question is somewhat different. I will explain later.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Again, under the Survey and Boundaries Regulation, I take this opportunity to point out, before the demand notices are issued to persons for the recovery of the charges on account of planting stones, the officer should survey the property and an account of the charges and expenditure incurred on account of the planting of stones has to be communicated *forthwith* to the parties. I understand that no such statement of account is being furnished to the parties before the issue of demand notices. There are several other complaints of that nature which have come to my notice. Therefore the income that Government receive under land records is practically unauthorised imposition upon the people and it should certainly influence this House in arriving at a conclusion that the land records work is not a gain either to the Government or to the people. I should therefore strongly recommend that this provision be omitted.

One more reason that I have to mention in particular is that it has to be remembered while discussing the budget that all possible occasions should be availed of to see that unnecessary expenditure, expenditure which could at least afford to be postponed for some time, is not incurred during the next year.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it not desirable to keep on departments which show a big gain to Government?

MR. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Louder, please.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it not desirable to keep on departments which are showing a big gain to the revenue of Government?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I do agree with him that if gain accrues to Government without sacrificing the permanent interests of the people, then such institutions or departments might continue for any length of time. But this agency is engaged in illegal exactions from the people. As it is, my case is that this agency is itself temporary. The President of this Council, when this question was discussed in this Council the year before the last, said, before the motion was put to the vote:

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

"It is very difficult to fix the period, but I may give this assurance that Government will not retain these officers for one moment longer than they are really necessary. I am sorry I cannot give a more definite assurance. It is a matter that requires looking into It is very probable that we may not require them for more than two years, but I do not think it is fair to ask Government to commit themselves to such a statement."

So, then, originally the idea does not appear to have been to make them a permanent addition to the regular staff. It was practically a temporary scheme which was being submitted to the vote of this Council from year to year and which has been brought to this Council now also. Now it is for the Council to say whether, in view of the enormous expenditure that this Council will have to incur on account of relief measures to be taken in connection with the floods, they will be justified in voting for a sum which can well afford to be dropped or at least to wait for some time. So, my request to the House is that we should conserve whatever is possible, by all reasonable means, for more useful purposes, at least for the next year. That this temporary scheme can well afford to wait is my considered opinion.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തറശീൽദാരന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

ഇപ്പോൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തറശീൽദാർമാർ ആറുകളുടെയും തോട്ടുകളുടെയും അരുകിലുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ പുറമ്പോക്ക കേസുകളായി എടുത്തു കൃഷിക്കാരെ പാടേ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിന ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണ്. കുറച്ചുകാലം ഇങ്ങനെ നടക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ കൃഷിക്കാരിൽ ശിക്ഷ അനുഭവിക്കാത്തവരായി അധികം പേർ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഒരു പെൻസിൽ മുക്കാൽ സെൻറ സ്ഥലം പ്രവേശനം കണ്ടാൽ മതി; പുറമ്പോക്കായിട്ടു കേസെടുത്തു ശിക്ഷിപ്പിക്കും. അതുകളിൽ മിക്കതും പണ്ടത്തെ ആധാരക്കെട്ടിൽ കൊണ്ടിട്ടുള്ളതായിരിക്കും. ഇപ്പോൾ അതെല്ലാം പുറമ്പോക്കായി, പ്ലാനിൽ സർവ്വേയർമാർ കൊള്ളിച്ച കാരണത്താൽ കേസെടുക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിലാണ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തറശീൽദാരന്മാർ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. അധികം ആററുതീരങ്ങളിലാണ് പുറമ്പോക്ക കേസുണ്ടാകുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോൾ വെള്ളം പൊങ്ങിയിരിക്കയാണല്ലൊ. വെള്ളം ഇറങ്ങിയാൽ ഉടനെ കൃഷിക്കാരെ അവർ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചു തുടങ്ങും. കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ മേൽ കേസുകൾ വളരെ എടുത്താലും അതിൽ ചിലതെല്ലാം തമ്മിൽ വേണ്ടവിധം പറഞ്ഞുതീർക്കും. അതിൽ ശിക്ഷ കൂടാത്ത നഷ്ടമെയുള്ളൂ. ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും ഇരുനൂറ കേസുകൾ പ്രതിവത്സരം ശിക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടുന്നതിനാൽ കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക ഒസ്സഹദുഃഖം ഉണ്ടാ

കുന്നു. പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ തോടു, കുളം വഴി മുതലായ സാക്ഷാൽ പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ ആരെങ്കിലും ആക്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ഹർജിമുഖേനയും മററും തഹശീൽദാരെ അറിയിക്കും. അപ്പോൾ അവരെ ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുകയും വേണ്ടിവന്നാൽ ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാൻ താലൂക്കിൽ പാർക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ മതി. പകുതി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തന്നെ പ്രാരംഭനടപടി നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കും. ഇതിലേക്കു ഒരു പ്രത്യേകം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ വെച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ അയാൾ എപ്പോഴും കേസുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കും. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സർവ്വേ പരിചയവുമില്ല; മേൽനോട്ടത്തിന് ആളുമില്ല; ഉപദ്രവം സഹിക്കുകയേയുള്ളു. ഇതു പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ക്ഷാമകാലത്തിൽ വലിയ അധർമ്മമായ ഒരു കൃത്യമായി ഗണിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഗ്രാമീണരുടെ ദോഷം കണ്ടിട്ടു പറയുന്നതാണ് ഞാൻ. അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ദോഷമൊന്നും വരാനില്ല; ഗുണമേയുള്ളു.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : L. R. M. ജോലിയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശത്തെയും അതിനാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഗവർന്മെൻറിനും ഉണ്ടാകേണ്ട ഗുണത്തേയും മറന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികളാൽ ഈ ജോലിയെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വെറുക്കുന്നതിനു ഇടയായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. L. R. M. ജോലി കഴിയുംവേഗം നിന്നുപോകണമെന്നുള്ള വിചാരം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഓരോ നിമിഷവും വദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. L. R. M. ജോലിയോടും അതു ചെയ്യുന്നവരോടും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെറുപ്പു തോന്നുന്നതിനെപ്പററി മി: രാമസുബ്ബയ്യർ ഇങ്ങനെ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"The work done by the land records staff is bound to be unpopular because no one likes to be told that the compound wall of his house has encroached on road limits and that it should be put back or that the cocoanut plantation he has raised on a water course has to be removed; but this detection of encroachments and the removal of the really objectionable encroachments are the main items of work for which the Assistant Tahsildars have been appointed. The Assistant Tahsildars as a class and their accountants cannot, therefore, in the nature of things, be popular if they do their duties conscientiously and fearlessly due to this circumstance."

L. R. M. ജോലിയോടും അതു നടത്തിവരുന്നവരോടും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെറുപ്പുതോന്നുന്നതിനു കാരണമായ സംഗതികളെ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമുഖേന തെളിയിക്കാം. എന്റെ താമസം കോതനല്ലൂർപകുതിയിലാണ്. അവിടെ അടുത്ത കാലങ്ങളിൽതന്നെ പല പുറമ്പോക്കുകേസുകളും എടുത്തു ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശിക്ഷപ്പെട്ട കക്ഷികളിൽ പലരും എന്റെ സമീപവാസികളാണ്. ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കേസുകളുടെ സ്വഭാവത്തെയും അതി

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ലേക്കുള്ള ശിക്ഷകളേയും പററി അവർ എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പുറമേ ആ തീച്ച് നോട്ടീസുകളും ഞാൻ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അറിവിൽനിന്നും തയ്യാറാക്കിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സ്റ്റേററുമെൻറാണ് ചുവടെ വായിക്കാനുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത്.

കോതനല്ലൂർപകുതിയിൽ വള്ളിയാർ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കിടപ്പുള്ള നിലങ്ങളിൽ പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസുകൾ എടുത്തു ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിവരം.

നമ്പർ	സർവ്വെ നമ്പർ	കക്ഷിയുടെ പേരു	ആക്കെ സെൻറ	പിരിക്കടക്കിട്ടുള്ള ഷെക്ക്	നിരോധന കരം			കുടിശിഖ കരം			ആകെ തുക		
					രൂ	ച.	കാ	രൂ.	ച.	കാ	രൂ.	ച.	കാ
1	4388	ചക്കിപ്പിള്ള	1/4	1	1	16	1	7	24	5	10	12	6
2	4388	ഗോപാലപിള്ള	1/2	1	1	16	1	7	24	5	10	12	6
3	4673	ഭഗവതിപ്പിള്ള	2/3	3	1	16	1	7	24	5	12	12	6
4	4673	ശിവതാണുപിള്ള	1/4	2	1	16	1	4	20	3	8	8	4
5	4673	നീലകണ്ഠപ്പിള്ള	1/4	1/2	2	4	10	10	23	2	13	27	12
6	4673	കുമാരൻകേശവൻ	1/4	4	2	4	10	10	23	2	13	13	12
7	4673	മാട്ടനാരായണൻ	1/2	1	1	16	1	7	24	5	10	12	6
8	4673	ഇരവികുമാരൻ	3	6	2	26	8	11	22	...	21	2	8
9	4673	അമ്മാളു	621/1000	...	1	17	15	8	2	9	9	20	8
10	4782	മല്ലൻവേലായുധൻ	4	2	1	16	1	7	24	5	11	12	6
11	4796	നീലമപ്പിള്ള	2	4	2	4	10	10	23	2	16	27	12
12	4800	ടിയാറം	1	4	2	4	10	10	23	2	16	27	12
13	4800	ദേവദാസൻ	1	...	2	4	10	10	23	2	12	27	12
14	4800	അരുമനായകം	1 1/2	3	1	16	1	7	24	5	12	12	6
15	4831	ഏള്ളുദാസൻ	3	5	4	3	10	16	14	8	25	18	2
16	4831	യോവേൽസുന്ദരി	5	8	6	3	14	30	19	6	44	23	4
17	5030	ശാമിനാഥൻ	3/4	2	1	16	1	7	24	5	11	12	6
18	5030	ഭഗവതപ്പിള്ള	1/2	3	1	16	1	7	24	5	12	12	6
19	4667	പിച്ചനമടസ്വാമി	2 1/4	4	2	26	8	14	20	8	21	19	...
20	4384	രാമൻപിള്ള	2 3/4	5	2	26	8	11	22	...	19	20	8

മേൽ വിവരിച്ച സ്റ്റേററുമെൻറിൻപ്രകാരം ൧൦ സെൻറിൽപരം സ്ഥലം പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസ്സു എടുത്ത് ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പ്രായശ്ചിത്തം, നിരോധനകരം, കുടിശിക കരം ഇവയിൽ ൨൫൦ രൂപാവരുന്നു. അതായതു സെൻറിനു ൨൦൦ ള രൂപായിൽപരം വരുന്നു. ഇതേ തോതിൽ കോതനല്ലൂർപകുതിയിൽ ഏകകാലത്തു ൫൦-ൽ പരം കേസുകൾ

തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അറിവ്. ഇത്രയും കേസുകളിലായി രണ്ട് ഏക്കറോളം സ്ഥലം ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുമെന്നും അതിലേക്ക പ്രായശ്ചിത്തം, നിരോധനകരം, കുടിശികകരം ഈ ഇനങ്ങളിൽ ൧൫൦൦ രൂപാ ഈടായിരിക്കുമെന്നുമാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്. മേൽവിവരിച്ച കേസുകളിലുള്ള പലേ കക്ഷികളും എന്റെ സമീപവാസികളാണ്. താലൂക്കിൽ ഈ വക പണം കെട്ടിവയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് അവർ അനുഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കഷ്ടം എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. കടം വാങ്ങിയും, കന്നുകാലികളെവിററും, ആഭരണങ്ങളെ പണയംവച്ചുമാണ് പണം കെട്ടിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത. സക്കാർവക ഭൂമികളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരെ ശിക്ഷിച്ചാൽ അവർ കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടതുതന്നെ എന്നു സമാധാനപ്പെടാം. മേൽവിവരിച്ച കേസുകളിൽ പണം കെട്ടിവച്ചതിൽ പിന്നീട്ട വസ്തു ഒഴിപ്പിക്കാൻ സ്ഥലത്തു പോയപ്പോൾ പലതിലും ആക്രമണം ഇല്ലെന്നു കാണാൻ ഇടയായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിന്റെ പരമാത്ഥം തന്റെ ഉദ്യോഗസംബന്ധമായ ചുമതലകളെ കൃത്യബോധത്തോടുകൂടി നിറ്വഹിച്ചുപോരുന്ന ഏതു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ പരിശോധനയിലും ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. മേൽ വിവരിച്ച പട്ടികയിലുൾപ്പെട്ട സർവെ ൪൩൨ എ. ൽ എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കിനെപ്പററി വിശേഷമായി വേറെയൊരു കഥ കൂടി പറയേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. സർവെ ൪൩൨ എ. നിലവും ബി. പുറർ അതിന്റെ കരയുമാണ്. ഈ വസ്തുക്കൾ രണ്ടും ഒരാളുടെ വകയാണ്. ബി. പുറററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട ൻ സെൻറു സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും ൨ ഌ സെൻറു സ്ഥലത്തെ അതിന്റെ ഉടമസ്ഥൻ അയാളുടെ നിലത്തോടു ചേത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിനാണ് അയാളുടെ മേൽ പുറമ്പോക്ക കേസെടുത്ത് ൧൯ രൂപാ ൨൦ ചക്രം ൨ കാശു ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. വസ്തു ഒഴിപ്പിക്കാനായി അധികൃതന്മാർ സ്ഥലത്തുപോയപ്പോൾ, വസ്തു ഒഴിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല കക്ഷിക്ക് അയാളുടെ വക ൩ഌ സെൻറു സ്ഥലം തിരിയെ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണ് വന്നിട്ടുള്ളത് !

സങ്കടകക്ഷികൾക്ക ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരുടെ അടുക്കൽ അപ്പീലും ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ അടുക്കൽ പരിശോധന അപ്പീലും ഉണ്ടെന്നു മറുഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും സമാധാനം പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. കാൽ സെൻറിനും, അര സെൻറിനും ആക്രമണകേസുകളെടുത്ത കക്ഷികൾ കെട്ടിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണത്തെ തിരിയെ വാങ്ങി സങ്കടനിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാക്കുവാനുള്ള അപ്പീൽ വ്യവഹാരങ്ങളിൽ ആ സാധുക്കൾ അതിലിരട്ടിയൊ മൂന്നിരട്ടിയൊ പണം ചിലവാക്കേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ള പരമാത്ഥം ആക്കും മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാവുന്നതല്ല.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

മേൽ വിവരിച്ച കേസുകൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ മേലധികാരിയായ തഹശീൽദാർ ചുമതല വഹിച്ചു തീൎച്ചചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതുകളാണ്. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു L. R. M. ജോലികളെ പകുതി ജീവനക്കാരേയും, താലൂക്ക സൎവെയറന്മാരേയും ഏല്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതായ അപാകടം ആ വക ജോലിയുടെ ചുമതലക്കാരനായ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തഹശീൽദാർ നടത്തുന്നതായാലും കൂടുതൽ ചുമതലക്കാരനായ തഹശീൽദാർ തന്നെ നടത്തുന്നതായാലും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നു മേൽ വിവരിച്ച ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളാൽ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ.

പുറമ്പോക്കില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പുറംപോക്കുകളെ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു കേസുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതിനും, അതിലേക്ക് അനുചിതമായ കരം, നിരോധനകരം, കുടിശികകരം, ഇവ ഈടാക്കുന്നതിനും പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ലാൻഡു റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ൧൦൯൮-ലെ വാൎഷികറിപ്പോൎട്ടിനെ പരിശോധിച്ച് ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഗവൎമ്മെൻറു പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"In the course of this work the Land Records staff detected 19,246 encroachments involving an area of 1,630 acres, against 20,324 encroachments involving an area of 1,680 acres in 1097. Besides the 19,246 encroachment cases detected during the year, 13,625 cases were pending at the close of the year 1097, making a total of 32,871 cases. Of these 32,781 cases, 15,982 were disposed of by the Tahsildars during the year leaving a balance of 16,889 cases. The arrears are particularly in the Agastisvaram, Chirayinkil, Shencottah, Ambalapuzha and Parur taluks. The Tahsildars of these taluks should put forth strenuous efforts and see that the pending cases are disposed of promptly. It is stated that the disposal of encroachments detected and *puduval* lands surveyed by the Land Records staff brought in a revenue of Rs. 3,28,802 against Rs. 1,33,179 in 1097."

മേൽ വിവരിച്ച ഭാഗംകൊണ്ടു L. R. M. ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അധികാരപ്പെട്ട എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസുകളുടെ എണ്ണത്തെ വൎദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും, അതിൽനിന്നും നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം പണമുണ്ടാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അവൎക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗസംബന്ധമായ കയററങ്ങൾക്കു സഹായമായി തീരുമെന്ന് അവർ വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരുന്നു.

L. R. M. ജോലിയോടും അതു ചെയ്യുന്നവരോടും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നീരസവും വെറുപ്പും തോന്നുന്നതിനു പ്രധാന കാരണം ഇന്നു സെററിൽമെൻറു രജിസ്തരിൽ കാണുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കുകളെല്ലാം സാക്ഷാൽ പുറമ്പോക്കുകളാണെന്നുള്ള സംകല്പത്തോടുകൂടി നടപടികൾ നടത്തി

പോരുന്നതാണ്. ഇന്നത്തെ സെററിൽമെൻറു രജിസ്തരുകളിൽ കാണു ന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ മൂന്നു വഴികളായി വന്നിട്ടുള്ളവയാണ്.

(൧) മുമ്പെതന്നെ സക്കാർവകയായി കിടന്നിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ.

(൨) കഴിഞ്ഞ സർവെയിലും സെററിൽമെൻറിലും പിശകായി വന്നുപോയിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ.

(൩) കണ്ടെഴുത്തുവകയ്ക്കു ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഡിമാക്കേഷൻ റൂൾസു വ ൭-ാമതു വകുപ്പിൻെറ ൩-ാമതു വ്യവസ്ഥയിലും, ൻ൧-ാമതു വകുപ്പിലും ആറു, തോടു മുതലായതുകളുടെ കരകളിൽ പതിഞ്ഞും പതിയാതെയും ഉള്ള ദേഹണ്ഡഭൂമികളെ അതാതുകളോടു ചേത്തു് പുറമ്പോക്കുകളായി എടുത്തുകൊള്ളണമെന്നുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥയാൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ.

ഇതിൽ ൧-ാമതായിപറഞ്ഞ സക്കാരുവക പുറമ്പോക്കുകളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരെ ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലോ, അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിലൊ, നിരോധനകരം കെട്ടിവയ്പിക്കുന്നതിലോ ആക്ഷേപംതന്നെ ന്യായമായ സങ്കടത്തിന് അവകാശമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

൨-ാമതു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള കണ്ടെഴുത്തു നടപടി പിശകുകളാൽ വന്നുപോയിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകളുടെ നടപടികൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സങ്കടത്തെയുണ്ടാക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ഒരു ദേവാരിൽ പതിവു വസ്തുവിൽ മുമ്പു സർവെ ചെയ്യുന്ന കാലത്ത് ഏതാനും ഭാഗം വിട്ടുപോയതും ആ ഉടമസ്ഥൻ ഉത്തമവിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി നാളതുവരെ അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നതുമായ വസ്തുവിൽ സർവേചെയ്യുന്ന കാലത്തു വരുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പിശകിനെ സൌകര്യമായി ഗണിച്ചു പുറമ്പോക്കു ചേർക്കുകയും ശിക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ന്യായമായ സങ്കടത്തിനു അവകാശമുള്ളതാണ്.

൩-ാമതു പറഞ്ഞമാതിരിയുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുള്ള റൂൾസിൻപ്രകാരം മനഃപൂർവം വരുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകളാണ്. ഇതിൻെറ അനൌചിത്യത്തെ അന്നത്തെ കണ്ടെഴുത്തു ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ ശങ്കരസുബ്ബയ്യർ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു് ൧൦൬൩-ാമാണ്ടു ചിങ്ങമാസം ൨൪-ാം ൩൪൩-ാം നമ്പരായി ഹജൂർക്ക് എഴുതി അയക്കയും, അന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയായിരുന്ന രാമറാവു അവർകൾ ൧൦൬൩-ാമാണ്ടു മകരമാസം ൭-ാം ൪൧൧൧-ാം നമ്പരായി അതിനെപ്പററി തീരുമാനിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ ഭാഗം ഇങ്ങനെയാണ്;

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

"റൂൾസു അനുസരിച്ച് പേരിൽ പതിഞ്ഞ വസ്തു പുറമ്പോക്കായി കൊള്ളിക്കണമെന്നുവരികിൽ സർക്കാർ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു പൊന്നും വിലയും കൊടുത്ത് ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ക്രമംപോലെ ഒഴിപ്പിച്ചല്ലാതെ പുറമ്പോക്കായി കൊള്ളിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള വസ്തു പുറമ്പോക്കായി പട്ടയംകൊടുത്തിരുന്നാലും, ആ പട്ടയങ്ങൾ തിരിയെ വാങ്ങിച്ചു പേരിൽ പതിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ക്രമത്തിനു തന്നെ പട്ടയംകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്...പേരിൽ പതിഞ്ഞ വസ്തുക്കൾ റൂൾസിനാൽ അവകാശം ഒഴിഞ്ഞു പുറമ്പോക്കിൽ ചേരുമെന്നു വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിലേക്കു റൂൾസിൽ ആ ഭാഗം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനെ റദ്ദ് ചെയ്ത് അതിലേക്കു വേറെയൊരു റൂൾസ് ഉണ്ടാക്കി അതു ഗസററിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ മതിയാകുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു."

കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ഏററവും രക്ഷയായിട്ടുള്ള ഈ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഉത്തരവു നടപ്പിൽ വരാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ മുമ്പു പേരിൽ പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള വസ്തുകളെ ഗവർന്മെന്റു മനഃപൂർവം പുറമ്പോക്കാക്കിതീർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതും ആ വിവരം പലർക്കും അറിയാൻപാടില്ലാതെ അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നതുമായ അവരുടെ വസ്തുക്കളിൽ പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതും, പ്രവേശത്തിന് അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വലുതായ മനോവേദനയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതാണ്.

ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കു റൂൾസിനെ നടപടികളിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുമ്പോൾ മേൽ വിവരിച്ച സംഗതികളെപ്പററി യാതൊന്നും ആലോചിക്കാതെയും അതിലേക്കു കക്ഷികൾ തരുന്ന തെളിവുകളെ വേണ്ടപോലെ ഗണിക്കാതെയും ചെയ്തു വരുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കു തീർപ്പുകളാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അതിനെ താങ്ങാൻ ശക്തിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ പുറമ്പോക്കു ഇനത്തിലെ വരവിൽ അത്യാഗ്രഹപ്പെടാതെയും, ജനരക്ഷയെ മുൻനിരുത്തിയും, അതു സംബന്ധമായുണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുള്ള നിയമത്തെ സംഗതികളുടെ സ്ഥിതിപോലെ ദാക്ഷിണ്യത്തോടുകൂടി ഉപയോഗിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അധികൃതന്മാർക്ക് മനോഗുണമുണ്ടായി വരുന്നകാലംവരെ ജനരക്ഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി L. R. M. ജോലികൾ നിറുത്തി വയ്ക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എനിക്ക് അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്. മേൽവിവരിച്ച കാരണങ്ങളാൽ

അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ പുലർത്തിവച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണുന്നതുക ഒരിക്കലും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി വാദിക്കുന്നു.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, in spite of the repeated requests made from this House *re.* the abolition of Assistant Tahsildars, Government seem to be persistent in keeping on this costly but inefficient establishment. There is hardly any public organ in the State which has not dwelt upon the suffering and losses the ryots have to undergo at the hands of these inexperienced officers. Time there was, when the duties that are done now by the Assistant Tahsildars were looked after more efficiently and to the better satisfaction of the poor ryots by a less costly establishment. I am at a loss to know why the Government would not be convinced of the uselessness of this costly scheme. I beg to place before this House a few points which have come to my notice, where not the least regard was paid to Regulation X of 1094 (*i. e.* the Survey and Boundaries Regulation). I have been interpellating Government regarding certain notices that have to be issued to parties according to the Regulation, but the Government have not been pleased to supply me with the necessary information which would have been very useful for our present discussion. Even during this session I renewed my questions but no answers have been received as yet. I think it will not be out of place if I place before this House a bit of my own experience as a land-holder. Very recently the Tahsildar of Trivandrum served me with a demand notice for the recovery of a sum of Rs. 3 and odd on account of survey and demarcation charges on my property. It was after the receipt of this notice that I knew that my property was surveyed and demarcated and that I was made a defaulter. Before sending out a demand notice they ought to have served me with the several notices according to the Regulation. This they have not done. Now, I fear that the next step of the Tahsildar will be to put the Revenue Recovery Regulation into operation and attach my property. I have brought these facts to the notice of the Revenue Commissioner and I do not know what action was taken on them. When I, who am living in the heart of the town and who am known to most of the *pakuthi* people, am dealt with thus, the fate of the poor people living in the villages can be more or less conceived. Sir, I am of opinion that the present system of land records maintenance is very defective and I request the Government to bestow their immediate attention and see that things are set right.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The subject of Assistant Tahsildar is a well-worn subject so far as this House is concerned. It has been discussed thread-bare in the House and a number of reasons have been advanced for his immediate abolition. He is all the same surviving and possessing a sort of charmed life in spite of the fact that he happened to be continuously under fire from this side of the House and promises to co-exist probably with the

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

Revenue Department of the State. I am not proposing to go over the old grounds in order to point out the fact that the evolution of the Tahsildar of old attended by the elimination of the outlying activities of that old functionary and marked by the specialisation of his legitimate duties has not, so far as we are concerned, been of any use in the matter of his services being confined to revenue work. He has to be assisted by the Assistant Tahsildar, who appears to have been introduced as a temporary measure, but threatens to continue for ever. But the one thing that I am now laying emphasis upon is the many illegalities that this functionary called the Assistant Tahsildar is empowered to carry on. First of all, I may draw the attention of the House to Section 14 of the Survey and Boundaries Regulation. Under that Section, so far as the land records maintenance work goes, the function of the Assistant Tahsildar is simply to find out the existence and the limits of *porambokes* and to refix them wheresoever the boundary stones are absent. But as my friend Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai pointed out a rule quite *ultra vires* of the Regulation has been enacted under the Regulation, *i. e.*, Rule No. 35, empowering the Assistant Tahsildar to disregard the boundary and the limits of *porambokes* as originally settled under the prior survey and settlement and allowing him to take advantage of any limit that he fancies as the limit of any particular *poramboke*. That particular rule has been in operation for nearly two or three years, and now the refreshing news is conveyed to the House by our esteemed friend Mr. Robinson that the Government have been good enough to abrogate that rule. But who is answerable for the amount of mischief that has already been done? Are the Government prepared to compensate the people who have suffered in this respect? I think Mr. Robinson will be the last person to agree to that proposal. Then, Mr. Robinson asks: "Don't you feel tickled when I say there is the prospect of gain that the Assistant Tahsildar would bring in." Sir, this House would be the last body, so far as this section of the House is concerned, to promote illegalities in any shape. At this rate any departmental head serving the Travancore Government may send out a gang of people who for the sake of revenue may do various things and the House will have to keep quiet because there is the prospect of gain. (*Laughter.*) That ought not to be the standpoint from which the question has to be viewed. The question is one of welfare of the citizens and the people in general, and that in a legal way. So, then, here is a patent case that the rules enacted by Government have been *ultra vires* of the parent Regulation. Illegalities have been committed and the outcry so far as the Popular Assembly and this House are concerned has been distinctly audible that an amount of innocent suffering is being caused by the Assistant Tahsildar who, we submit, should soon cease to function. But in spite of the criticism of the House for the last three years, he promises to be with us. I beg to repeat what we have been hammering on the attention of the Government the subject of Assistant Tahsildars.

Fortunately for the Government, at the very first blush of the question, some of the non-official members got into some sort of delusion with respect to some possible benefits that might arise from the existence of the Assistant Tahsildar. Hence, they could not see eye to eye with the rest of us, and, now, I am glad to hear that all sections are practically agreed upon the inutility of the Assistant Tahsildar and the illegality in allowing him to continue. Therefore, I would request all the members on this side of the House to take into consideration the fact that this Council is in the last year of its existence and discussing the last budget placed before it and not to lose sight of the fact that we owe an account of our doings here to the public at large. [Mr. A. Hoogewerf: "*Hear, hear*".] As to this Assistant Tahsildar who is at the people's throat when he professes to measure their fields and their compounds, he is really measuring the patience and capacity of the people to stand the pressure brought to bear on the people. In general, he seems to be a very unwelcome visitor so far as the people in the outlying tracts of Travancore are concerned. So, I would request the non-official section of this House to stand shoulder to shoulder in the matter of voting out this Assistant Tahsildar (*loud laughter*) and take it as the most precious work that they can do in the field of the non-official duty that they ever set before themselves to discharge in this House.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I fully associate with what has been said by my friends on this side of the House regarding this motion. Mr. Kumara Pillai brought to the notice of the Council some particular cases and also mentioned the sort of sufferings felt and the losses sustained by the people of his taluk. Sir, I must also say that the sufferings felt by and the losses caused to the people of my taluk and the people of adjacent taluks are equally so and it is put in the budget that the continuance of these Assistant Tahsildars is only *temporary*. I must submit, Sir, that the evils caused to and the losses sustained by the people on account of the work of these Assistant Tahsildars are not temporary but permanent. Besides the high rate of *tararila* realised, the matter of punishment in connection with *poramboke* cases, and the taxes levied upon such *porambokes* are enormously high. Apart from the fact that the Government have been realising gain in the matter of *tararila* and taxes in ordinary cases, as I referred to in my speech in the course of the general discussion of the budget, Government have issued a Notification to extend what are called town lands by making 17 municipal stations also added to it. The question of registry of lands in towns is quite different from the registry of lands in *poramboke* cases in the other areas. The minimum tax to be fixed according to the rules on these town lands by the Assistant Tahsildars when they take up *poramboke* cases is Rs. 7 ch. 4 per acre and the maximum tax, as I put it the other day, is Rs. 574 ch. 12 per acre. So, this state of affairs along with the continuance of this set of Assistant Tahsildars must necessarily cause real hardship to the

[Mr S. C. H. Robinson.]

people, and it is on account of that, as was repeatedly said by my friends, that we raise our protest against the continuance of this set of officers.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir I rise to oppose the motion for reducing the grant.

This is a question that was fully discussed in this House on previous occasions and it was clearly brought to the notice of the House that the expenditure was a necessary item in the land revenue budget. The scheme now working was introduced after mature consideration, and though some pessimism was prevailing at the outset as to the outturn expected, it has been proved beyond doubt that it is now working satisfactorily.

The expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 2,99,285. I would ask the House whether it is expedient to say, 'halt!' at this stage when the work is in full swing and when so much expenditure has been incurred. Every one of us has a duty to discharge towards the Government, and the public and I would request you to consider whether we will be considered as discharging this duty if we allow the work to stop and get into chaos, when the scheme has passed the experimental stage, when the Assistant Tahsildars, who were new to their work at the outset, have gained experience by their continuous work in the field for these four years, and when responsible officers of Government who have thorough experience in land revenue matters have given their verdict that the staff now in the field is indispensable for the conduct of land records maintenance work and for clearing off the accumulated arrears.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will Mr. Robinson say what further time it will take the Assistant Tahsildars to finish the work allotted to them?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That I cannot say exactly.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May we have some sort of idea as to the possible duration?

PRESIDENT: Can you not give a rough idea, Mr. Robinson?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think last year I said three years. One year has passed and there are two years more.

In the light of the past discussions in this House and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, Government have gone minutely into the working of the Land Records Department and have removed all defects noticed so far. To cite instances, there are the instructions of Government in the matter of classifying encroachments as objectionable and unobjectionable, and impressing upon the subordinate officers the necessity of evicting encroachments only in objectionable *porambokes*. These instructions disclose clearly the intention of Government to mitigate the

hardship in the working of the scheme. Again, when it appeared to Government that Rule 35 of the Land Records Rules, *viz.*, that *poramboke*s should be surveyed and demarcated according to their position gave rise to some misunderstanding in the public mind that the survey and demarcation would be done without regard to the extent or position of adjoining *patta* lands, they have issued clear instructions that the rule should be interpreted correctly and that no portion of a registered holding should be treated as *poramboke*. Government have even gone to the exent of authorising the Tahsildars, who dispose of *poramboke* cases to remeasure the lands whenever necessary with due reference to settlement and pre-settlement records, when contentions are raised by the parties that any portion of the area surveyed as *poramboke* falls within their registered lands.

PRESIDENT: Do you mean pre-settlement records?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The settlement and pre-settlement records.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether there have been irregularities on the part of the Assistant Tahsildars as regards remeasuring?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I hope these irregularities will disappear. But it is not that they want character. There have been irregularities in every department.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): He said that they had been asked to remeasure the lands already measured.

PRESIDENT: He wants to know whether there have been cases of remeasuring of lands that have been already measured.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Remeasuring has to be done when there is a necessity.

PRESIDENT: I know of cases in which it has been done.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is a remeasuring ordered on account of the change in the rules?

PRESIDENT: It depends upon the number of such cases.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Instructions have been issued to the Land Records Superintendent about a month and ten days ago.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have the rules been published in the *Government Gazette*?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Only the attention of the Superintendent has been drawn to them. They will be published after getting the sanction of the Government.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): How will the people know about these rules if they are not published?

PRESIDENT: They will be published.

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there are cases in which the Government have ordered remeasurement of land in regard to which measurement had been made according to existing rules? In respect of such sketches prepared, have the Government issued demand notices for recovering charges?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The notice I am talking about is as regards the widening of *porambokes* which is due to the neglect or interest of adjoining land-owners in not putting boundary fences or walls, strictly according to the pre-settlement, the *porambokes* as to the existing limits should not be surveyed unless the party is informed of it and that the encroachment will be treated as *porambokes*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether, in surveying these *porambokes*, the Assistant Tahsildars measure also the adjoining lands held by private people,--whether, when they survey these *porambokes* they also survey the adjoining registered holdings so as to find out the exact limits between the *porambokes* and the registered holdings?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): They will have to see to the several survey stones for checking. The adjoining lands may belong to private persons or they may be *porambokes*. They must check the position of the stones correctly.

I am not arguing that the system has become perfect and there will be no room for further complaints. I am only asserting that the right course is not to end the scheme but to mend it in the light of further experience gained. I find that it is felt by all concerned that in the interests of Government and the tax-paying land-holders the public roads and lanes should be conserved to the full extent necessary and that public canals and other water courses should be kept intact without encroachments. Since the date of the settlement, there has been no proper survey of these areas and the result is that both the Government and the ryots are alike ignorant as to where their boundaries meet. It will certainly not be advisable to postpone the work indefinitely till the question of the resurvey of the State is settled, as every year's delay will result in loss either to Government or to the ryots. In the case of unobjectionable *porambokes*, such as reclamations from *kayals* or rivers that could be assigned without causing obstruction to navigation, it is necessary that they should be assigned as early as possible so that the ryots may be assured of their holding and Government of their revenue. In the case of objectionable encroachment, it is equally essential that the squatters should be made aware of their trespass as early as convenient, so that they may stop spending money in a concern that will never prove to be a paying one. I assure the House that, without a proper staff, it will not be possible to do any adequate work under land records maintenance. The villages are many

of them unwieldy and no re-arrangement is possible till the next settlement. It is therefore no use asking the *proverthikar* under the existing conditions to go about the *pakuthi* attending to the L. R. M. work in the way it is now done by the Land Records Department. It is equally impossible for the Tahsildar amidst his multifarious duties to do the executive work of test-inspection or see to the correction of plotted sketches prepared by the special accountants. In addition to his office and treasury work, the Tahsildar has to be out in camp for at least 40 days a quarter. He has to spend many days more in camp if the executive side of his work has to be done satisfactorily. For example, he has to spend at least three or four days in a *pakuthi* to check the several registers and accounts maintained in each village. In a taluk where there are 7 villages, the Tahsildar has to be in the village office for at least 21 days for the said item of work. He has to inspect the several markets in the taluk and see if the conditions prescribed in the Market Rules are adhered to by the contractors and licensees. He has to inspect all the sites involved in the grant of agricultural loans and see if the money advanced is duly spent. He has to inspect all lands involved in cases where the *porambokes* are applied for parties and see if the lands can be made available for assignment or not. Then again he has to do much inspection work in *pudural* and encroachment cases. He has necessarily to be in charge of the Treasury for at least 30 days in a quarter. I do not consider that it will be practicable for the Tahsildar to devote adequate attention to the L. R. M. work as the Assistant Tahsildar is now doing. Of course we may try if the Tahsildar cannot be made to do it. But, I assure you, Sir, that the trial will end in failure as it is no use bringing matters to such a crisis. If the functions of the Police are indispensable in criminal law, I should consider that a competent staff is equally so under the Revenue Regulations and rules for conserving the public roads and canals which are now no man's property and that public property should be considered as sacred as public safety. It is a regular resurvey of *poramboke* lands that is now going on. All mistakes brought to light are being rectified and in all cases in which the parties raise contentions against the survey, regular enquiries are being conducted and the rectification of settlement mistakes, if any, noticed, is being allowed by the Government. Though about three hundred to four hundred notices of suit are received by Government every year it is only very few that are dissatisfied with the decisions of revenue officers and seek the help of the court.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In the case of how many such decisions have notifications been published in the *Government Gazette*?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not sure.

This year the cases decided against Government are only about 40 and the awards made payable by the Government amount only to Rs. 4,300 What I would reiterate is that, if the House considers that L. R. M. work is indispensable in the interest of Government and the land owners,

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

the only proper course I would recommend is to allow the present scheme to continue at least till all the existing *porambokes* are surveyed.

Out of a total of 2,42,607 *poramboke* numbers only 84,340 have been resurveyed so far. It is therefore necessary that the L. R. M. staff and the Assistant Tahsildars should continue till the remaining numbers are all surveyed and demarcated. Whatever might have been the anticipations at the outset as to the period required for closing the arrears of work, I can only say that the period fixed was only approximately calculated on the basis of a very rough standard. The volume of the work was not fully gauged as it naturally could not be, and it has been found by actual experience on the ground that a resurvey of big *kayal* and river *porambokes* and of canal and other *porambokes*, in the hilly taluks is beset with difficulties and that in a country like Travancore where such *porambokes* are many and where the severity of the monsoons is beyond human control, you cannot condemn the Land Records Department if the standard falls short of expectation.

As the *puduval* survey operations—

PRESIDENT: That is not in question now.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think I have sufficiently explained the matter.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): After the excellent speech of my friend Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai and the finishing touch given to it by Mr. Kumara Pillai and the stirring appeal made by the members on this side of the House like that by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, I do not think there is very much for any other member to say on this matter. They have proved to the hilt that the Assistant Tahsildar is absolutely unnecessary. The Tahsildar is responsible for the correct maintenance of the land records, and he alone should be put to this work. I had a conversation with a few Tahsildars, and they told me that they were having rather an easy time of it. Mr. Robinson was doing this side of the House and the country a service in letting the cat out of the bag when he said that alterations were being made in the method of measurement of the lands and so on. That has strengthened our hands very much; and from what Messrs. P. K. Narayana Pillai and G. Paramesvaran Pillai have said, I think that matters have been going on in the wrong way and that everything that has been done is more or less *ultra vires*. Mr. Robinson's Department wants to take a lot of credit to itself for having brought in a big revenue of two or three lakhs of rupees. That is his main argument.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is not the main argument. My argument was that it is no good throwing up the staff, having kept them so far, and having proceeded with a portion of the work.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I could not hear what he said. (*Laughter.*) I see in the reports that are published and speeches

made by the members that much credit is taken for the two or three lakhs of rupees that have been brought into the Government exchequer by the introduction of the Assistant Tahsildars. I ask the question: "Would not the same amount have come in if the Tahsildar himself was doing this work?" That is the point. The other is a sort of camouflage and putting things in the wrong way. With these few remarks I strongly support Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I have not very much to say by way of reply, because I have not been enlightened by the speech of the Land Revenue Commissioner in regard to the point about which there could have been some doubt. The main reason still urged by him is one of gain to Government. I hope it has been satisfactorily answered by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai and also by the figures shown by Mr. Kumara Pillai. As a matter of fact, very much more money will certainly come into the coffers of Government if they will only proceed at the present rate, for it is not likely that, in respect of small amounts, the people would take the trouble of either going to the appellate authority or filing civil suits. Mostly, the amounts sought to be recovered as fines are Rs. 3, Rs. 5 and Rs. 7, and a very large amount is certainly likely to be realised on account of such charges. The Land Revenue Commissioner was not in a position to tell us whether the formalities prescribed under the law have been satisfied before steps were taken by the land records authorities for the realisation of these amounts.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I did not say that the formalities had not been carried out. It is for the other side to show that they have not been carried out.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Of course, the facilities that are in the possession of Government to satisfy us, I hope Mr. Robinson will realise, are not certainly with us. As a matter of fact we assert that there have been irregularities and that the formalities prescribed under the law have not been complied with. It is up to Government to satisfy the non-official members by quoting the notifications published under the law or by satisfying us by other records that such steps as are required under the law have been taken by the Government or their officers. So far as we are aware there is only one notification and that is under Section 5 of the Survey and Boundaries Regulation. We have not been able to find out any other notification as prescribed under Sections 6, 11 and 16, so much so that it is not possible for us to say from the authorised version published in the *Gazette* whether any of these formalities prescribed under the above Sections have been complied with. On the other hand, if there are any other records for satisfying us we would certainly welcome such information from the Revenue Commissioner in the course of his reply. It has been said that orders have been issued for the remeasurement of such of the *porambokes* as have already been

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

measured on the basis of Rule 35 objected to from this side of the House. It is not known what amount has been realised on account of the erroneous measurement already made and whether these amounts are contemplated to be refunded, whether after all people have not been put to considerable hardship on account of such illegal procedure.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What about convictions?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Also on account of convictions that might have ensued on account of such illegal steps taken by Government and the fines and penalties imposed upon the people consequent upon such irregular procedure. The very important question is whether, before surveying these *porambokes*, they had surveyed and fixed the boundaries or ascertained the boundaries of the adjoining registered holdings. The Land Revenue Commissioner was not in a position to tell us whether the Assistant Tahsildars had done that. The Assistant Tahsildars or the land records authorities before altering the limits, have necessarily to alter the map as well. Have they done that? And are they competent to do that? So far as the area of the adjacent registered holdings is concerned they cannot alter the area of the registered holdings under the existing law. We object to the special *agency* appointed for the purpose of land records maintenance and not to the work of the land records maintenance as such. We have absolutely no complaint about the system of preserving lands intact and of maintaining land records. We would certainly object to the encroachment upon public lands and we would certainly welcome any measure to detect encroachments upon *porambokes* or common grounds. As I submitted already, here the Assistant Tahsildars are not only detecting encroachments upon public lands, but they have been encroaching upon private lands which cannot be said to be one of their duties or the object of the system which will inure to the benefit of the people at large. Of course, in regard to the agency, the Revenue Commissioner says that the Tahsildar continues to be an officer with multifarious duties. I do not know whether a time will arrive when he will cease to be an officer of multifarious duties in order that he might give his personal attention to what may be regarded as his most legitimate duty, *viz.*, that of the maintenance of land records. I still maintain that the Tahsildar ought to be the real local responsible officer in respect of land records maintenance work. There is no justification, merely on account of the fact that he is also asked to do business in connection with the Agricultural Loans Regulation or any other matter, why he should be asked to ignore or disregard the duties attached to him as land revenue officer. I may also state that, now, with very few exceptions, almost all the Tahsildars have got the same kind of survey training as that of the Assistant Tahsildars. I am glad to say that latterly the Government have been enforcing the Tahsildars being in

camp in their *pakuthies* and staying there for a sufficient number of days to go about inspecting not only the registers but also *pokkuvaravu* work and doing such other duties as are necessary, when the Tahsildars are in camp. I do not find any reason why the Tahsildars should not be empowered to exercise supervision over the work of the accountants, regarding survey of *porambokes*. It is the accountant that does this work primarily. The Assistant Tahsildar is expected only to check about twenty per cent. of the work done by these accountants. The Land Record Maintenance Superintendent checks only a very small percentage of the work done by the Assistant Tahsildars. This is the control and supervision in regard to the maintenance of land records. On the other hand, the Tahsildar, the local officer, who is expected to go about and to inspect the *pakuthies*,—and leisurely too—and who has got ample opportunities for the purpose should necessarily have ample facility to see to the efficient and proper working of the Land Records Maintenance Rules. I therefore think that the argument that the Tahsildar is an officer of multifarious duties and will ever continue to be so, should certainly have no weight with the Land Revenue Commissioner in supporting the present temporary scheme. I therefore strongly urge that here is a matter wherein people are really affected prejudicially; and I assert it is not a scheme which, as claimed by the Government, is in the interests of the people. Here is a matter where I should certainly expect that those who represent the people have a duty to perform by voting down the grant demanded.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not think I have very much to say. From past experience, it has been found not possible to have the work done with normal hands. It was as a result of the work being attended to in former times by the normal staff that the arrears accrued. I think it is in the interests of every land-owner to know the extent of his land. It is also in the interests of the Government as well as the land-holder that all these *porambokes* and encroachments should be surveyed as soon as possible. I have shown that it was not possible to do that work with the normal staff. We have been working with the new staff and they have now got experience of the work, and if we have to stop it now, we will have wasted a good deal of public money. I therefore oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: I propose to make a few remarks, in order to enable the House to see what the real attitude of the Government in regard to this matter is. The question is whether this temporary staff is to be ended or is to be mended. I may inform the non-official side of the House that the real object with which the Government have been pressing the retention of this temporary staff is not the money that it brings in. I see that the non-official side of the House fully recognises the importance of keeping the *porambokes* intact in the interests of the community. Indeed, complaints have been received that the *porambokes* which act as drainage channels or irrigation channels or as important roads or other means of communication from one place to another have been allowed to be encroached upon to the great prejudice

[President.]

of the neighbouring people. This is the object with which the work was started. Of course the non-official side of the House says: "Why cannot the Tahsildars do this work, why cannot the ordinary revenue establishment do this?" The ordinary revenue establishment, I would say, is inadequate at any time and under any circumstances to tackle this work fully and efficiently. It is not so in this country only. It is recognised elsewhere also that the ordinary revenue establishment, although its duty is to keep up the land records in conformity with the conditions existing on the ground, cannot achieve this object unaided, and from time to time, here as well as elsewhere,—here, I can say from previous literature, and elsewhere as I know it myself,—special help has had to be given to the land revenue establishment to achieve the object referred to. The non-official side of the House knows that there were heavy arrears in regard to the maintenance work and that things were in a state of perfect chaos, and it was after a good deal of consideration that this organisation was started. A good deal of work has been done and some more work remains to be done. It is not pretended that there has been no room for complaint. When there is a large organisation like this working, there must inevitably be some amount of irregularity and it is quite legitimate for the public to complain in regard to such irregularity, and it is the duty of Government and their officers to remedy the irregularity. As for defects in the rules themselves, after the work had progressed for three years, one defect was brought to the notice of Government, and when that was brought to the notice of Government, it was promptly remedied. No human rules are perfect. The rule which is now objected to probably got in through some inadvertence, and when the doubtful validity of that rule was brought to the notice of Government, that rule was altered. If there is any other defect in the rules, Government would be willing to remove the defect and make them better and more satisfactory. Mr. Kumara Pillai was instancing certain cases in his own taluk. He was referring to small extents of land along paths or water courses which have been booked as encroachments. In the case of water courses and communications, the nature of the encroachments on them will only be very small. If I remember rightly, there is a rule which says that insignificant encroachments should be left untouched. I believe that there is such a rule, and if that rule had been used with discretion, such cases need not have been brought to book. But you must also remember that it is unsafe to give too much of discretion to the subordinate officers. When cases which require the use of discretion are brought to the notice of people who realise their responsibility, that discretion will be better used by them than by the subordinate officers. Therefore a defect in the rule or in the working of it cannot be a complete answer to the argument regarding the necessity of the establishment. The Government are not anxious that this establishment should continue. If this establishment is abolished and if this work is to stop, it means so much work less for the Government. But is that real economy or sound policy? We have gone a good deal along the path of rectifying the

mistake in survey and bringing up the land records. When pre-settlement records are quoted by the parties affected, they are consulted, and if the cases which are taken as encroachments are found to be parts of holdings, then they are declared to be real holdings, and they are excluded from the operation of the encroachment rules. This is a process in which each case has got to be disposed of on its merits. I grant that a certain amount, perhaps a large amount, of hardship is, or may be, caused to the people, but that hardship can be minimised by a stricter supervision and by a more intensive way of examining things than by abolishing the whole staff. What will happen by abolishing the staff is that the work which has been done so far will come to a standstill, and we will drift again into chaos. I request the House to consider fully the implications of the step that they are going to take, and if they say that the land records staff should go, let it go. But what will be the consequences or results of such a step should be considered carefully by the House before the House vote upon this matter. I shall now put the motion to the vote.

The motion was put to the vote, 20 voting *for* and 20 *against*.

PRESIDENT: I must vote against this motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—20.

1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
2. „ A. Govinda Menon.
3. „ A. Hoogewerf.
4. „ N. Kumaran.
5. „ T. Kumara Pillai.
6. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman.
7. „ V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
8. The Rev. Fr. Kriakose Vettikkapalli.
9. Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
10. „ M. R. Madhava Variar.
11. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.
12. „ J. John Nidiry.
13. „ M. N. Pillai.
14. „ Joseph Panjikaran.
15. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (Tiruvalla.)
16. „ G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
17. „ L. R. Raja Raja Varma.
18. „ N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
19. „ C. Sankara Menon.
20. „ K. Dominic Tomman.

NOES—22.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. „ Paul. V. Daniel.
3. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
4. „ K. George.
5. „ K. Govindia Pillai.
6. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai.
7. „ R. Krishna Pillai.
8. „ R. K. Krishna Pillai.
9. „ T. Lakshmana Pillai.
10. „ John Mackie.
11. „ K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
12. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
13. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Director of Agriculture.*)
14. „ P. Paramesvaran.
15. „ M. Raja Raja Varma.
16. „ C. Ramankunju.
17. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
18. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
19. „ J. Stephenson.
20. „ V. Subba Aiyar.
21. „ S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
22. „ Trivikramar Vasudevar.

The motion was declared lost.

[President.]

Motions 32 to 42.

The following motions, which were identical, were withdrawn:—

MR. C. SANKARA MENON:

32. To omit the allotment of Rs. 27,751 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

33. To omit the allotment of Rs. 27,751 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

34. To omit the allotment of Rs. 27,751 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

35. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,550 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,050.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

36. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,216 for temporary accountants, etc., for the preparation of duplicates of field measurement sketches.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

37. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

38. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

39. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

40. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

41. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

42. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 800.

Motion 43.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I beg to move the following:—

43. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,464 for the temporary Survey School, Kottayam.

I move this just to know why a temporary school is maintained at Kottayam.

PRESIDENT: I may tell you that it is for training those who are to be recruited as accountants and *proverthicars*. People who apply for the posts of *proverthicars* and accountants must pass a survey test. The school pays its own way. It is not a loss to Government. But it is only a source of gain.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): There are many persons who have passed that test. Then what is the use of continuing that school ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) This school was started tentatively for a year with effect from 1-1-93. In view of the proved necessity for the school it is being continued from year to year. This is an institution which has been found to be more than self-supporting. For the first eight months of the current year the receipts are Rs. 960 and the expenditure Rs. 958. As this is the only school for the use of the canidates in North Travancore and as there is still large demand for the school, it is proposed to continue the same during 1100 also. There are very many applications for training in the school. It is the only school in North Travancore. If you do not have the school there, the people of North Travancore will have to come here all the way. I therefore request that the grant be allowed.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 44.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I move the following :—

44. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for purchase and repair of survey instruments by Rs. 1,000.

I have ventured to make this motion because in the previous year the amount allotted was only Rs. 1,000. And it also appears that in 1098 the allotment was not much. I am unable to see why the allotment of Rs. 2,000 has been made in this particular year. I hope that it will be possible to make a reduction of Rs. 1,000 in the allotment made.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): There are ten theodolite instruments which are out of order and they have to be repaired. The cost of repair will come to about Rs. 200 for an instrument. The instruments are very delicate and costly. I asked for Rs. 2,500 for the purchase of new instruments. But the Government have reduced it to Rs. 2,000. Without good instruments correct measurements could not be taken. This House is fully aware that slight mistakes in the angle would land the people in difficulties. The amount asked for now is highly necessary and is very much less than what I asked for originally. I would ask therefore the gentleman to kindly withdraw the motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): In the light of the explanation given, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

[President.]

Motions 45 and 46.

The following motions were not moved :

MR. P. K. NARAYANAN PILLAI :

45. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,880 for Revenue Survey by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

46. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8·52 lakhs under Demand I by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT : I now put this demand to the vote of the House, *i. e.*, Demand I—Land Revenue—Rs. 8·82 lakhs *minus* Rs. 4,800.

I take it that the House sanctions the demand.

The grant was made.

The House then adjourned at 5-3 P. M. to meet next morning.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday the 6th August, 1924.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-four of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Improvement of Trivandrum Town.

50. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme before them to improve the city of Trivandrum, and, if so, whether they mean to take any steps in the matter in the near future?

(*b*) In view of the growing importance of the city, will they be pleased to invite a town-planning expert and consult him how to improve and extend the town of Trivandrum?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to appoint a committee of experts to investigate how to improve the health of the city, to remedy its insanitary condition, to open new roads in various parts of the city, to convert lanes into cartable roads, etc.?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Government are examining a scheme for providing the town with protected water and electric light supply.

G. P. T. 573—310. 22-9-24.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

(*b*) and (*c*) Government do not consider it feasible, on financial grounds, to immediately take up the questions of town planning, town improvement, etc., in Trivandrum.

Work of Assistant Superintendents of Police.

51. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of cases investigated by each of the Assistant Superintendents of Police, the number of days each of them was in camp, the number of stations each of them inspected and the travelling allowance drawn by each in the years 1098 and 1099?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The statement required by the member is laid on the table.

Appendix.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 51.**

Statement of investigation and inspection work of Assistant Superintendents of Police.

Designation.	Number of cases investigated.		Number of days spent in camp.		Number of stations inspected (including outposts).		Travelling allowance drawn.					
	1098	1099	1098	1099	1098	1099	1098			1099		
							Rs.	chs.	c.	Rs.	chs.	c.
Assistant Superintendent of Police, Nagercoil	34	48	205	242	20	21	618	25	..	648	16	..
Do. Trivandrum.	76	39	79	92	32	3	597	13	..	407	4	..
Do. Quilon	23	35	166	173	22	10	671	17	14	716	25	9
Do. Chengannur.	45	48	308	183	19	19	87	10	2	562	26	..
Do. Kottayam	12	39	141	93	3	11	593	1	..	458	17	8
Do. Perumbavur	15	42	326	177	19	9	857	2	2	651	24	..

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS – (*Contd.*)

DEMAND II—TAXES ON INCOME.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 6·15 lakhs under Demand II · Taxes on Income.

Motion 47.

The following motion lapsed, the member being absent:—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :

47. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,870 for Income Tax Inspectors.

Motoin 48.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I move the following motion :—

48. *To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,763 for four clerks.*

It is provided in the budget that the staff of each of the Division Cutcherries is to be strengthened by the addition of one clerk on Rs. 40-70 for the proper checking of income tax accounts. There are clerks in the Division Cutcherries who are properly checking the accounts now; and if there are complicated accounts, the auditor in the Revenue Commissioner's office may be requisitioned for working in the Division Cutcherries. I hope Mr. Robinson will be able to tell us the number of complicated cases in which the auditor's help was sought. There are three Income Tax Inspectors in Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey who have not had sufficient work. In 1098 they have added only the names of 34 assessees, and this year, in answer to my interpellation, it was stated that the number of fresh assessees was very small. So, even if the existing clerks are to be helped in the checking of the accounts, that can be done by the existing Income Tax Inspectors. In view of the recent floods it cannot be expected that we will get more revenue than at present under income tax next year. Therefore the work cannot increase next year to such an extent as to necessitate the appointment of four more clerks in the Division Cutcherries. On these grounds I bring forward this motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. I would first of all bring to the notice of the members of the House that we are working the Income Tax Act very much cheaper here than in any other country. We have entertained hardly any staff worth mentioning to carry on this work of assessing and so on. We have a very small staff in the whole State. We practically carry on the work with the old Revenue staff, and there is a certain point beyond which it will not be sound policy to reduce the establishment, and that point we have now reached. At present we are trying to pull on in all ways and the whole work is being carried on by the Division Collectors and the old revenue staff.

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

This matter of providing one extra trained clerk in each Dewan Peishkar's office has been urged by the other side of the House itself. Since the reorganisation of the department the Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, were only able to spare, for the time being, one clerk for each of the Income Tax officers. The members of this staff, besides their work of maintaining up-to-date registers, have to attend to the general correspondence—and that is very huge—to the issue of notices under the Income Tax Regulation, notices for the return of income, notices for the production of accounts, etc. In addition to all these, they have to help the Dewan Peishkar in examining the accounts of firms, merchants, etc., which have to be produced in connection with the appeals in original assessment cases from the award of Collectors. The Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, have found by experience that it is not possible for the present staff, with the single clerk who is put on to income tax work, to do their work satisfactorily. Further, these clerks had been attending only to revenue work in the Revenue Department. They have no practical experience in book-keeping and such other commercial subjects. The consequence is that the firms, and the public generally, suffer. Firm accounts are very complicated and unless a man has had some experience in commercial book-keeping, it is not possible for him to check the accounts.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the auditor is not sent to Division Cutcherries?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Of course he is being sent round. But it is not possible for him to go round and cope with the enormous work. The present work is done in a slip-shod way and it is not possible for the auditor to check all the accounts. We want experienced men in each office to go through these accounts not only relating to big firms but also relating to small firms. If this is done it will result in very great satisfaction to the Government and to the assessees. We have also been receiving many complaints from the merchants and others because their books are kept in the Dewan Peishkar's office for a long time now. The men at present attending to this work are overworked. And not only that, we want experienced men.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will one experienced clerk be sufficient for each Division?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is what I have applied for.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Is it not in addition to the existing clerks?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes; that is because the existing clerks are overworked. We are working with the old revenue staff. The income tax in the whole

State is very great. The actual staff in my office consists of six clerks and one auditor. The work done in Travancore is much cheaper than in any other country.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): As the Income Tax Inspectors have very little work to do, cannot this work be done by appointing Inspectors who are qualified in book-keeping?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is not possible. The investigating officer cannot also be the assessing officer. The man who is in the office is helping the Dewan Peishkar in hearing appeals.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the clerk is an assessing officer?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No; he is the man who goes to the Dewan Peishkar and helps him. This arrangement is more or less the arrangement adopted in Madras and other places. Out of this very small expenditure on the staff for collecting the income tax a very big income accrues to the Government. I am sure after this explanation the member will withdraw his motion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Inspectors have got sufficient time, and what they are doing just now?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Shall I go through the whole work of the Inspectors, Sir? There were six Inspectors first. But their posts were abolished. But without them we could not get on. In 1098 therefore the Council had to sanction three Inspectors, as the former number was abolished. I shall give the work of the Inspectors in the towns. Three Inspectors have been appointed to the three towns—Trivandrum, Alleppey and Kottayam. Of course, the work in the town is very much more than the work in rural parts; therefore we want a full-time man in the town to make enquiries and to go round finding new assessees and that sort of thing. The revenue officers are not able to do that work in big towns. All that they can do in addition to their work is to attend to the work of assessment in rural parts. To give the House some idea of what the Inspectors' work is I shall speak of the Trivandrum Inspector. He has to attend to Trivandrum and Nagercoil. He has got 11,902 occupied houses with a population of 72,784.

PRESIDENT: What the member wants to know is whether the Inspectors have got work all the year round. I think that is what you want to know, Mr. Madhava Variar?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I want to know whether the Inspectors have not got sufficient time to assist the existing clerks.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Even if they have the time, they have not got the training. We want trained men. It was a gentleman on the other side of the

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

House who made this suggestion and we found it to be necessary. I think it was Mr. Mackie who said that. It was because the non-officials said it was necessary that we are asking for this grant.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I am not convinced by Mr. Robinson that the appointment of four more clerks is necessary in these Divisions. He says that the Income Tax Department is very cheaply run and he wishes Government to be congratulated for that. What I say is, because it is cheap, we should try not to make it very expensive. Mr. Robinson says that the existing clerks and Inspectors are not competent to examine accounts and so expert clerks are necessary. If the present clerks and Inspectors are not competent they must be sent away to some other department and expert hands appointed to the Income Tax Department.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is a mistake. What I said was that they had no training in commercial book-keeping. They knew their legitimate work—the magisterial work and the revenue work. This is a new branch of Government work and they are not trained in this branch. We want men who are trained in income tax and auditing.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): That is what I am saying. Trained people must certainly be appointed and the existing people, if they are not trained in auditing work, must be sent away to some other department and trained people appointed in their stead. I ascertained the fact from Quilon whether the Income Tax Inspector had got sufficient work and whether he wanted the help of an account clerk. Mr. Robinson has not told me in how many cases the Inspector was sent to examine complicated accounts. So I press the motion for the reduction of this grant.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, about the Income Tax Inspectors, I must again point out that they are investigating officers and that they are engaged in investigating cases all the year round. This goes on continually and it would be most dangerous for the tax-payer to have the investigating officer also helping in the assessment. His work has to be done very judicially, and, if he is also to do the work of assessment, it would work very hard and there would be continual complaints. He cannot go into the office and help the Dewan Peishkar in his office work. He can only go to the field and help the Collector in his investigation. If the work is not done properly, I must say, he would be helping a lot of injustice.

I have already pointed out that we are trying to carry on the work of assessing with the old revenue staff. But we find it very difficult. The public are suffering in consequence. They know that the staff in the office is not sufficient. The merchants and others who go to the office have to sit there for a long time; their accounts are not checked in

time because the office staff has not got the time to do it. They have got all sorts of work to do. The member suggests that one of the clerks of the revenue offices may be asked to do this work. We find him incompetent and incapable of coping with this additional work. I would like to give a list of the work of the Income Tax Inspector, but that will take a good deal of time. I do not therefore propose to give it. I do not think there is anything more on the subject to be replied to.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): May I know the number of days on which the auditor was sent to Quilon for examining complicated cases?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the exact number now. It was 15 to 20 days roughly. Two or three days were spent at Alleppey. In my own office he is checking all the accounts relating to the merchants of the Chalai Bazaar. He has a great deal of work to do. I think Mr. Mackie knows that.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether the idea is to appoint qualified auditors as clerks?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I said *clerks*. The pay of the auditor would be rather too high. So I asked simply for clerks. I want to get men who have some training in commercial book-keeping.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether Mr. Robinson will be able to do away with the auditor in his office if four clerks are appointed?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The auditor is necessary. He will have to go round other offices helping the Tahsildars, Division Assistants and so on. He is occupied with much work in my office for a large portion of the year. He was wanted at Devicolam and Peermade. But I was not able to send him. He is fully engaged here.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr Madhava Variar?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

Motion 49.

PRESIDENT: There are four motions which are identical with Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion. I request Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai to move his motion. The other gentlemen will speak on it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I beg to move the following motion :—

49. *To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for fees to Vakils.*

Sir, this question appears to have been discussed in this Council at the last session in connection with a supplementary demand for grants made this year. I wish to raise the question again for the attention of

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the House, for I am convinced that this item may well be omitted. The reasons that have been advanced in favour of retaining vakils to represent the Government in cases coming before the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner appear to be chiefly two-fold; firstly, that he is a judicial officer and, as such, both sides of the case should be presented to him, and that he has to perform his duties as judge after hearing what has to be said both on behalf of the Government and the assessee who is the appellant; and secondly that the Sirkar Vakils who are already engaged for conducting Sirkar cases before particular courts cannot be directed to appear before the Income Tax Commissioner for any case in which the Income Tax Commissioner may find it necessary to hear the Sirkar also. My contention, Sir, is that there is no necessity for any vakil being heard on behalf of the Government before the Income Tax Commissioner sitting as an appellate authority.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Do not vakils appear on both sides before the High Court?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes; they ought to appear on both sides. It is very desirable that both sides should be represented. But, unfortunately, I cannot subscribe to the view that the Income Tax Commissioner, when he disposes of appeals by assessees, may be regarded on a footing with the judicial officers of the High Court or the District Courts or the Magistracy, for the following reason. The frame-work of the Income Tax Regulation itself makes it beyond doubt that, whenever there is a question of law raised relating to the interpretation of any of the provisions of the Regulation, such question should be referred to the High Court for decision.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I beg to correct one point about it. It is not questions of *fact* but only questions of *law*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I did not say questions of fact. I only said questions involving the interpretation of any of the provisions of law.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Only if there is any doubt.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Of course. If any provision of the law appears to the Income Tax Commissioner to be beyond all doubts, I do not think that the engagement of a vakil on behalf of Government will become necessary at all, because *prima facie*, the particular case may appear to be quite clear to the Income Tax Commissioner and there may not be any necessity for the arduous work of a legal adviser to convince him that it requires any advice.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): But before he comes to that state of doubt, has he not first of all to hear both sides laid clearly before him? It is only after hearing them that the question of doubt or no doubt arises.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That is exactly what I object to. I do not want the Government to ask us to pay for vakils to create doubts in the mind of the Income Tax Commissioner. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it not the assessee who creates doubts in the mind of the Commissioner?

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes; the Income Tax Regulation provides for it and it is the special privilege of the assessee that, whenever doubtful points have been raised, the question should be referred to the High Court ordinarily. The spirit of the Regulation is that, whenever doubtful points arise in regard to the interpretation of the Statute, the Income Tax Commissioner should not take upon himself the responsibility of deciding such questions and they should ordinarily be referred to a judicial tribunal of the status of the High Court. I am speaking only on the spirit of the Regulation. Perhaps the Regulation may be amended subsequently, in which case, matters may be treated differently. But, as it is, it appears to me that the spirit of the Regulation prescribes that, whenever doubtful points relating to the interpretation of the provisions arise, it is desirable that such cases should be referred for decision to such a judicial tribunal as the High Court. If so—

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether that is the stage at which the Sirkar Vakil appears?

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes; the Sirkar Vakil, I think, now appears before any doubt arises.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not the Land Revenue Commissioner consult the Head Sirkar Vakil whenever there is a doubt?

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I will come to that later on.

In regard to this objection I have only to refer to Mr. Robinson's statement at the last session when this question was raised. He said that it was not intended to engage these vakils in ordinary cases but only in intricate cases where doubtful questions of law arise. Now, if that be the intention, I say that before vakils are engaged the Income Tax Commissioner will have to decide for himself whether one is a fit case in which the Sirkar should be represented or not. Perhaps Mr. Robinson's point is that, in order that he may make up his mind to say that the Sirkar also should be represented, he has to hear both sides and then come to some understanding about it; or in order to make up his mind to refer the case to the High Court or not, he has first to see from the Sirkar Vakil's argument whether a reference to the High Court is necessary. I object to this procedure. The engagement of Sirkar Vakils would have a very dangerous effect. There may be cases in which apparently there is a doubtful question of law raised. The

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Sirkar Vakil will come and say that there is no room for doubt in this case. "Here is a clear case so that you need not refer it to the High Court."

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): There is Section 50 of the Regulation making it incumbent on the Income Tax Commissioner to refer any such case to the High Court. It says that he *shall* so refer any such questions on the application of the assessee.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): There is also a proviso---'unless he thinks it unnecessary.' If Mr. Robinson would delete that proviso, I will have absolutely no objection.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If he says that it is unnecessary, he has to give reasons for the same.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): So that, in order to make up his mind as to whether a particular case should be referred to the High Court or not, I say that the service of the Sirkar Vakil certainly is not required. In my humble opinion, the service of the Sirkar Vakil is not needed to represent Government in regard to this point, because whenever the assessee raises a question of law relating to the interpretation of any of the provisions of the Regulation, unless the Income Tax Commissioner feels that it is absolutely frivolous or that there is no doubt about this matter---

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May he not go by the previous High Court or Privy Council opinions?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): It is very desirable that the Income Tax Commissioner should tap all sources of information so that he might make up his mind in regard to that point. I would just recommend to him one such source and that is, instead of asking these Sirkar Vakils to appear before him and making a payment for every such appearance, it is just possible for him to make a reference to the Head Sirkar Vakil through Government for any legal opinion that he might want in connection with any doubtful points that may arise in the course of the decision of a particular case, because, we find that, in similar instances, references are made by the Government to the Head Sirkar Vakil from time to time in regard to doubtful points arising in the working of the Land Conservancy Regulation and similar Regulations wherein the chief revenue authority happens also to be exercising the functions of a judicial officer inasmuch as he is performing his functions under a particular Statute. In such cases only references are made to the Head Sirkar Vakil. These references come to him, and, fortunately for us, the terms of the contract of the Sirkar Vakils do not preclude them from answering references made to them by the Government. So that, it may not be said by a Sirkar Vakil: "I am not paid for

this work. I have been paid only for appearing before a particular court at stated hours." He has necessarily to answer any references made to him by the Government, so much so that, if under any extraordinary circumstance the Commissioner feels any doubt as to any particular provision, he can make a reference to the Sirkar Vakil and through him he can ascertain for himself whether one is a fit case for reference to the High Court. My only objection is that the Sirkar Vakil's appearance will have this effect upon the Income Tax Commissioner. I am not speaking of any particular incumbent of the office. We are all satisfied that Mr. Robinson, the Income Tax Commissioner, is performing his duties impartially and fairly as a judicial officer. (A voice: *Hear, hear.*) But that is not the point which I want to bring to the notice of the Council. The Income Tax Commissioner, whoever he may be for the time being, should not be influenced in any way by the appearance of the Sirkar Vakil, especially in view of this provision, *viz.*, the discretion vested in him of rejecting any such application for reference to the High Court on grounds which are very vague. Under such circumstances, the Income Tax Commissioner should not be given any opportunity to be influenced by a Sirkar Vakil coming forward and saying: "Here is a case which is beyond doubt. Please do not refer this to the High Court." If, as a matter of fact, the Income Tax Commissioner should have any information about it, he may freely have his doubts cleared through references made to the Sirkar Vakil's Department.

This will be, as it is, an unnecessary item of expenditure and various complications would ensue on account of this fact as there is a tug of war between the Government and the Sirkar Vakils. The Government say: "Our Sirkar Vakils are engaged only for particular purposes. That is the understanding on which they have agreed to serve the Government as Sirkar Vakils and they say that even if they are given any remuneration they are unwilling to do the work." There are all these complications. I say that all these can be avoided by the Income Tax Commissioner making references through the Government to the Head Sirkar Vakil. Further, I should also like to know from Mr. Robinson whether, after all, there has been any necessity for engaging Sirkar Vakils on behalf of the Government, felt by him even before the suggestion was made in this Council by a non-official member during the last budget discussion. I am submitting this, subject to correction. If the Income Tax Commissioner had recommended any such Sirkar Vakil being engaged to appear before him after the suggestion I should also like to be informed. For these reasons I think all this expenditure may be deleted.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to support Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion. Sir, this item which is put down as payment to vakils is an improper item. Referring to the budget of the previous years we do not come across any such item as having been included in the budget. Mr. Robinson says that he is a judicial officer, and, as such, he must necessarily hear both sides of the question.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

I controvert these statements. First of all, he is not a judicial officer. If he is a judicial officer, the test is whether he has got power to examine witnesses on oath before him under the ordinary methods enunciated for the conduct of judicial proceedings. The expression 'judicial proceedings' has been defined in the Evidence Act. That means the power to take evidence which must be on oath. I have never seen Mr. Robinson or any other income tax officer summoning any witness for the purposes of examination and cross-examination.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask Mr. Narayana Pillai whether, since the last session, he has seen in the commentary any reference to the Income Tax Commissioner as a judicial officer?

PRESIDENT: He has given reasons for saying that your proceedings are not judicial proceedings. You may controvert them.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am referring Mr. Robinson to the definition of judicial proceedings under the Evidence Act. If he is prepared to adopt it, he is at liberty to accept my view. If he thinks that that is no authority, he is at liberty to oppose it. For the time being, my position is this. Mr. Robinson does not take the evidence of any witness on oath. He is not therefore a judicial officer. The Act does not say anywhere that Mr. Robinson must hear the opposite side in any procedings.

Therefore my submission is, in the first place, that he is not a judicial officer. He is only a revenue officer whose powers are regulated by the Income Tax Regulation. Sir, as to hearing both sides of the question, it is good not with regard to judicial proceedings only, but as regards all disputes. Suppose there is a dispute between two members on this side or on the opposite side of the House. It is fair that the disputes are settled by hearing both sides. That is a very sound principle of universal application and I have no quarrel with that. But the question is whether Mr. Robinson as an income tax officer is empowered to hear the opposite side. My submission is that the Income Tax Regulation itself is a self-contained Regulation, as regards any matter which comes under the purview of it. If, as a matter of fact, Mr. Robinson is a judicial officer, I may suggest that his office may be abolished. For, it makes no difference for the Government to litigate in a court of law, to realise the assessment due from each assessee without resorting to a special judicial officer like Mr. Robinson appointed under the Regulation. We have got judicial courts, enough for purposes of expediting the collection of revenue and can do away with the special agency of Mr. Robinson. To say that Mr. Robinson is not a revenue officer is entirely wrong.

Then, I would refer also to the provisions of the Income Tax Regulation. If Mr. Robinson is a judicial officer in the sense that a judge of the civil court is a judicial officer or a magistrate of the criminal court

is said to be a judicial officer, then the provisions parallel to the provisions in the Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Procedure Code certainly would have been found in the Income Tax Regulation. For example, in the matter of hearing appeals under the Code of Criminal Procedure or the Code of Civil Procedure, it is not left to the option of the presiding officer as regards the hearing of the opposite side. It is obligatory upon him that he should invariably hear both the sides. Is there a similar provision in the Income Tax Regulation which makes it obligatory upon Mr. Robinson or any other person who holds an enquiry that he should invariably hear the opposite side? There is no such provision. Then, if he thinks that he is a judicial officer, as has been pointed out instancing the High Court Judges, and if he thinks that he has the same power as the High Court Judges, I ask, why did not the Income Tax Regulation provide for the realisation of costs from the unsuccessful party by the successful party? If a certain assessee's appeal is allowed as against the Government, may I ask whether the Government would pay the costs to the appellant? They do not do so. If, on the other hand, the assessee's appeal is dismissed, Mr. Robinson unfortunately has not got the power to award costs. Mr. Robinson claims that he is a judicial officer and thinks that he has, some how or other, by some invisible rule, the power of hearing the opposite side, which is invariably the Sirkar and asks the tax-payer to pay the costs for the appearance of the Sirkar Vakil. It is invariably the defeated party that must be made to bear the burden of costs, but here it is not so. He thinks that the innocent public of Travancore have to pay the costs. That, again, I beg to submit, is a ridiculous position. The Regulation does not provide for any notice to be served as soon as an appeal is filed. He has been good enough to admit that, in 99 per cent. of cases, he does not want to hear the opposite side. Now, if he is a judicial officer, if he considers that he is bound by rules visible or invisible to hear the opposite side, I ask how he decides a number of appeals—the majority of them, at any rate—without hearing the opposite side. After all, when boiled down it comes to this. It is entirely left to his option whether he hears the opposite side or not. A judicial officer has not got any such discretion as regards the need of hearing the opposite side. Mr. Robinson says that, when he feels a difficulty, he wants to have the arguments of the Sirkar Vakil to assist him. I would submit it is really a case of Mr. Robinson clearing his difficulties of law or facts that are placed before him. For that, I think, it is extremely unjustifiable to call upon the poor tax-payer to assist Mr. Robinson in getting legal advice from such quarter. If Mr. Robinson himself is expected to study the facts, he is expected also to study the law. The legislature in its mercy has allowed certain other provisions. When any income tax officer finds it difficult to grasp difficult questions of law, there is the provision that he is at liberty to refer to the High Court for guidance. Of course, Mr. Robinson is not prepared to take advantage of it. He thinks that he will be able to get through the whole thing after hearing the arguments of the Sirkar Vakil and be done

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

with the whole matter. Invariably we find that the Sirkar Vakil's arguments have got a peculiar solvent effect upon all difficulties. (*Laughter.*) That is good enough so far as it goes. So that it goes really to complete the education of Mr. Robinson as an income tax officer. He wants the assistance of other people. For that the tax-payer has to pay! I beg to submit that, if Mr. Robinson finds it rather difficult to do his income tax work without the assistance of any other person, then, some other method will have to be found for the solution of income tax appeals than asking the tax-payer to pay for the enlightenment of Mr. Robinson. When I say this, I do not mean to cast any reflection on Mr. Robinson as an income tax officer. That he is a fair and capable officer I have do doubt, especially so in view of his openness to correction. But I would say that, so far as the tax-payer is concerned, it is extremely difficult to allow this grant. It is a provision illegal and unwarranted. So, I support the motion of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai with all my heart.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, in his usual lucid style, as also Mr. Narayana Pillai, has put the whole question in a nut-shell. I join with the other members of this House in my appreciation of Mr. Robinson as one of our very best officers. I may say that he is a pride to the Travancore service. All the same, Sir, a bad impression has been created that he wants on the right or left hand side a Sirkar Vakil to interpret the Income Tax Regulation whenever he gets into deep waters. That, in the interests of both Mr. Robinson and the Department, is much to be deplored. Cases come before him after they have been thoroughly enquired into, by an intelligent Tahsildar and a highly paid officer, the Dewan Peishkar. There is not much difficulty for him with all the files and the arguments on both sides laid before him. Very often, a vakil appears for the other side. Whenever he is in trouble, as stated by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai and Mr. Narayana Pillai, he has the Head Sirkar Vakil who is very near to him and there is also the High Court to refer to.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know whether the member would raise any objection if the advice is given free by the Head Sirkar Vakil?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If the Head Sirkar Vakil is willing to give advice to the Income Tax Commissioner free, *gratis* and for nothing (*laughter*) I shall have no objection. The whole trouble seems to be on the part of Mr. Robinson that he is obsessed with the idea that he is a judicial officer in this matter. Now, Sir, this is the most inopportune time for this demand to be brought before this House. I should have expected Mr. Robinson to have had some consideration for the poor suffering people of the north to have withdrawn this motion before we have the unpleasant duty of opposing it in this House to-day.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I also like to support the motion brought forward by my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai. In supplementing what has already been said by the previous speakers, I have only to add one aspect of the case. There is already a loud complaint from the tax-payers that we have too many Sirkar Vakils and especially Head Sirkar Vakils, and the general impression among the tax-payers is that these Head Sirkar Vakils have not sufficient work. Further, there is also the complaint from the people that, whenever important cases are to be conducted, private vakils have to be engaged by the Sirkar. Surely all this state of affairs has rightly given room for complaint to the tax-payer. When such is the situation, the novel provision in the budget for additional expenditure in connection with income tax appeals seems to be almost a cruel one. And I simply support all the statements that have been made by the previous speakers and I am clearly of opinion that this allotment should not find a place in our budget.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I support the motion of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai for the reduction of the amount in the budget for the engagement of Sirkar Vakils in the matter of income tax appeals. I am very glad to see that Mr. Robinson is possessed with the idea that he is hearing appeals as a judicial officer, and I hope that he will continue that attitude even in the future disposal of cases. What the Income Tax Regulation wants is that he must, so far as it is in his power, decide cases according to the best of his ability. When any doubts arise as to a question of law, he must refer the matter to the High Court in order that the assessees may have the benefit of the pronouncement of the highest judicial tribunal in the land. So, the appointment of vakils to argue before the Income Tax Commissioner on behalf of the Sirkar is certainly objectionable. Then again, the other aspect of the question is that even supposing that somebody is engaged on behalf of the Sirkar to argue the cases, it would be a waste of money to pay them when we have so many Sirkar Vakils. Last time, when the supplementary grant was moved and when it was discussed, we had the opportunity of hearing at some length on the point from our esteemed friend the Law Member and he told us that the covenants between the Sirkar Vakils and the Government do not comprise this matter. I asked him specially whether there was any written covenant. He told us it was the understanding. Then I asked him whether there were any definite terms for their appointment. He was not able to give us any satisfactory reply. The situation is this. The Income Tax Regulation is a new Regulation, and most of the Sirkar Vakils who are now in service were appointed before the commencement of this Regulation. So, this may be considered as a new piece of duty thrown on them. As for that matter take the case of other public servants. The District Judges and Munsiffs who are now in service were entertained before some of the present Regulations were passed. For instance, the Insolvency Regulation and the Succession Certificate Regulation have certainly added a lot of work to the District Judges as also many other Regulations which have been passed by the

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

Council. Now would it be proper on the part of the judicial officers of Government to come and say: "When we were employed, the understanding was that we should work the Regulations which were then in force. At that time, we did not think of the additional work thrown upon us by the Insolvency Regulation or the Succession Certificate Regulation or any of those Regulations that are newly being introduced into the country. So we must be given some new fees? That is the argument at the bottom of the demand. It seems to me therefore that the principle is that a person has got to be paid additionally if he has to do more work. In that case that principle must be extended not only to the Sirkar Vakils, but to other officers under the Crown. So, if this argument can hold good in this case, I do not see any reason why this argument could not be pushed further and our judicial officers also paid something in addition to their pay in respect of the cases in which they adjudicate on matters which have been brought under their judicial control by the introduction of new legislation. This is, in my opinion, a very wrong principle and it should not be given a footing in this land. During the last session of the Council, Mr. Subba Aiyar was talking about the terms and understandings regarding the appointment of Sirkar Vakils; they were very vague, and no definite idea could be formed about it. I do not see how the warrant of appointment of Sirkar Vakils is in any way different from the warrant of appointment of District Judges and Munsiffs. In the case of Sirkar Vakils, they can accept private engagements, and I think that they are not overworked since they have time to attend to other private work. Moreover, the Sirkar Vakils are decently paid gentlemen. They are paid during vacation time also, and when they retire they are given pension. So I cannot understand the reasonableness of such a person being given additional payment for his legtimate work.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ വക്കീൽഫീസ് അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല എന്ന പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. സൎക്കാർ വക്കീലന്മാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ ധാരാളം പഴക്കവും തഴക്കവുമുള്ളവരുടെ സംഖ്യ ഒട്ടും കുറവല്ല. നല്ല ഒരു തുക അവൎക്കുവേണ്ടി ചിലവിടുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ അവൎക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ജോലിയില്ല. ശമ്പളത്തിനോ എണ്ണത്തിനോ അനുരൂപമായ ജോലി അവൎക്കില്ല എന്നുള്ളത് നിൎവിവാദമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലും അധികച്ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ബഡ്ജററിനെപ്പററി പൊതുവിൽ വിമൎശിച്ച അവസരത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. സൎക്കാർവക്കീലന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഈ ആദായനികുതി ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കും ആവശ്യമുള്ള സഹായങ്ങൾ ലഭിക്കാൻ സൌകൎയ്യമുണ്ട്. അവർ നേരിട്ടു കേസ്സുനടത്തുകയോ അവരുടെ ഉപദേശത്തെ സ്വീകരിച്ച്

ആദായനികുതിവകുപ്പിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നടത്തുകയൊ ചെയ്താൽ മതി. പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് അതിലേക്ക് വക്കീൽഫീസായി യാതൊരു സംഖ്യയും നീക്കിവയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, this subject was fully threshed out at the last session of the Council and the House accepted the principle and policy of the Sirkar being represented by a vakil by a majority. So I ask the House to adhere to the verdict they have once come to and not go back on what was accepted last time. The House accepted the principle that it was necessary that the Sirkar should be represented in complicated and important cases by vakils.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from Mr. Robinson the practice obtaining in British India?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): There are many cases in which the Crown is represented both at Home and in India by a lawyer, and I see in Mysore also a provision is made for the Government being represented by vakils.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*). May I know whether in British India a vakil is engaged on behalf of the Crown to appear before the Income Tax Commissioner or the High Court?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not prepared to answer him off-hand. I require some time. The principle that the Sirkar should be represented by a vakil has already been accepted. It seems to me that the feeling of the House tends more to the point that our Sirkar Vakils should not receive any separate remuneration for appearing before the Income Tax Commissioner on behalf of the Government.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether it is only Sirkar Vakils that could be engaged to appear on behalf of the Sirkar?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not catch him.

PRESIDENT: He wants to know whether your idea is to engage Sirkar Vakils alone to argue these cases.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not considered that point.

The House has already accepted that the Sirkar should be represented by a vakil in important and intricate income tax cases. It seems to me that the opposition is only against our present Sirkar Vakils being paid extra fees for the appearances before the Income Tax Commissioner. This question was threshed out—

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Our case is, without additional payment they should be made to do the work.

[MR. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The opposition is that the Government should be represented by a vakil and that should be done without additional remuneration.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): We have got both the objections.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): In regard to the chief objection against the Sirkar Vakils being employed—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was not the amount sanctioned for the payment for services already engaged by the Government?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): So the amount should be sanctioned for the payment of Sirkar Vakils who appear before the Income Tax Commissioner.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was it not a case of payment for services already rendered?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes; but the principle that the Sirkar should be represented by a vakil was accepted by the House.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Sherlailai*): May I know from Mr. Robinson whether the principle once accepted cannot be rejected or is the House bound by that?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): They can certainly change their verdict. I may only say that it is not desirable that we should come to a decision which will retract us from the previous one. Probably Mr. Subba Aiyar will deal with the legal points that have been raised by Messrs. P. K. Narayana Pillai, Joseph Panjikaran and other gentlemen. I have authority for my saying that the proceedings under the Regulation are judicial proceedings. The matter was so fully discussed at the last session and I do not think it necessary for me to raise all these points again. Many gentlemen on the other side of the House, including Mr. Krishna Aiyar, strongly advocated—unfortunately he is not here to-day—that vakils should appear for the Sirkar. I do not think that anything further was said on the motion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I do not personally want to speak on this occasion. But somehow or other, I have been dragged into it by some observations by the non-official members and also by the fact that Mr. Robinson introduced my name in the debate. (*Laughter.*)

Now, the first point that has to be considered in this connection is whether there is any necessity for a vakil to appear before the Income Tax Commissioner. With respect to that point, my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has raised some technical objection that the proceeding

before the Commissioner is not a judicial proceeding and therefore he is not competent to hear both sides, although he would concede that even on matters which are not judicial proceedings both sides should be heard to arrive at a proper conclusion. When he put it like that, I do not think it is necessary for us to consider whether the matter in question is a judicial proceeding or not, because, independent of the fact that it is a judicial proceeding, both sides will have to be heard to settle any dispute between any two parties.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): May I know Mr. Subba Aiyar's opinion whether it is a judicial proceeding?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am coming to that.

I am prepared to say that it is a judicial proceeding. In the first place, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai said that a judicial proceeding is one in which oath should be administered. I fear that he does not remember the definition of "judicial proceeding" in the statutory law. It only says that a judicial proceeding is one in which evidence may be legally taken. So that it does not necessarily mean that such evidence should be oral evidence taken on oath. It is quite enough if documentary evidence is produced, so that the mere fact that the evidence is not taken on oath need not debar us from presuming that it is not a judicial proceeding. If we go by the definition, I think the proceedings before the Income Tax Commissioner are judicial proceedings, because he is bound to enquire into the case and take additional information or evidence and pass orders as the chief revenue authority under the Regulation. So, strictly speaking, it is a judicial proceeding under the Regulation as it stands. I am supported in this view by authorities on the subject.

"In this connection, it is important that the income tax officer should put to the assessee the specific points which are the subject of difference between the Crown and the tax payer in order that the assessee may know what case he has to meet and adduce evidence accordingly."

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it only under the Income Tax Act that he can take evidence?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The question is whether the evidence is or may be legally taken. I am quoting it from the Indian Income Tax Act. It is a commentary on the Act. Therefore, I say, when it is a judicial proceeding, evidence, documentary or oral, is and may be taken legally. That will constitute a judicial proceeding. Further in Section 27 of our Regulation it is distinctly provided:

"The Collector or Commissioner shall, for the purposes of any inquiry under this Chapter, have the same powers as vested in a court under the Code of Civil Procedure, when trying a suit in respect of the following matters—

(*a*) enforcing the attendance of any person and *examining him on oath or affirmation*;

(*b*) compelling the production of documents; and

(*c*) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and any proceeding before a Collector or Commissioner under this Chapter shall be deemed to be a "judicial proceeding" within the meaning of Sections 187 and 226 of the Travancore Penal Code".

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

The Collector or Commissioner can thus call for evidence and take evidence on oath. So, I do not think that there can be any doubt that the matter is a judicial proceeding. Then my friend referred to another argument and said that, if it is a judicial proceeding, the cost should be awardable. I do not know of any law which makes it incumbent upon any court to award costs to the other side to make it a judicial proceeding. Though in particular class of cases the awarding of costs is within the discretion of the court, I say that costs may not be awarded. We have got the criminal cases and cases under the Land Conservancy Regulation and other Regulations which impose penalties upon parties. Every such penalty imposed upon them will be by an authority duly constituted for the purpose. He conducts a judicial proceeding and awards penalty. It is not necessary that it should be allowed by the law that the costs should be awardable by the court. So that, the two fundamental tests—

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether vakils are being heard by the Peishkar to dispose of appeals?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am coming to that.

So that the two fundamental tests mentioned by my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, I believe, are not quite sound and I therefore say that we may take it that it is a judicial proceeding, and as I said, even if it is not so, it is open to him to hear the other side also. If it is open, the question is whether he should hear the other. My friend Mr. Sankara Menon raised the question whether the income tax officer—I mean the collector—hears the other side. I say it is open to him to hear the other side. Perhaps it will be a little bit costly to engage a Sirkar Vakil before the appellate authority. I believe the party or Government do not generally engage a vakil.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): My question is not only to the Income Tax Regulation but with reference to the Forest and other Regulations.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The fact that a Sirkar Vakil is not engaged in cases under the Forest or other Regulations does not mean that it should not be done or need not be done.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Even Peishkars hear income tax cases in very many cases.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*). Oh yes! they do. What I say is that inasmuch as the Commissioner as the chief revenue authoriy can correct errors, it is unnecessary that the other income tax officers should hear Sirkar Vakils and when so much objection is taken to engage a Vakil before the Commissioner and although it may be desirable that the Sirkar Vakil should appear in all those cases, I do not know whether it will be expedient—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What about the proceedings under the Land Acquisition Regulation?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is quite open to them. In the case of a Land Acquisition enquiry the proceedings is supposed to be not judicial until a reference is made. Till then he is supposed to be an agent of the Government or an executive officer. The moment he begins to record a reference, he is a judicial officer and the reference goes to the District Court where the Sirkar Vakil appears and both parties are heard. I do not think that that analogy will hold good here. I believe, therefore, we may take it that the Income Tax Commissioner or the chief revenue authority is a judicial officer for the purpose of the Regulation.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know whether when the Dewan decides revenue cases Sirkar Vakils appear.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Vakils do appear. If it is a statutory appeal it is open to him to engage a Sirkar Vakil. If it is not, it may not be done. In some cases it may not be because it is open to the aggrieved party to have it rectified by a regular suit, whether it is under the Land Conservancy Regulation or the Land Assignment Regulation where, I believe, suits are allowed in certain matters.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether any money is paid to a vakil for appearing before the Dewan?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): He does not ordinarily requisition the services of a Sirkar Vakil. If he does we will send in our bill. The only question is whether it is necessary to do so. Mr. Robinson at the last meeting of the Council did pointedly bring to the notice of the House that it was absolutely necessary that we should hear both sides.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know when the necessity for engaging a Sirkar Vakil was felt?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know. I think Mr. Robinson must be asked about it.

It is only when we were asked to appear that we came to know about it. As to what induced him to start the correspondence I do not know.

The point is whether, with reference to this particular matter, it is desirable that Sirkar Vakils should appear and my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai pointed out that it was open to Mr. Robinson to make a reference. In the first place, there is a difference between the British Indian Act and our present Regulation, because this follows the old British Indian Act where no reference to the High Court is made obligatory.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from Mr. Subba Aiyar whether there is any provision in the Draft Income Tax Bill, making the reference to the High Court obligatory?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes. The Bill is ready and it has been sent to Mr. Robinson for his views and in that amended Bill I have made the alteration and introduced the provision making it obligatory. There is the further safeguard also against setting up frivolous applications for references being made to the High Court. I believe it is obligatory upon the party seeking reference to deposit a certain sum, the amount which will have to be paid as cost to Government.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkra*): May I know whether he has also provided for costs being awarded to parties by the Government if the latter fails?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Certainly the High Court has the power. To realise it from the Government is very easy in case the High Court sees that cost should be awarded. In the case of the assessees it may be difficult to realise the cost in many instances. But in the case of the Government it is very easy to realise and so the Government have not to deposit the cost. So, till then, a frivolous application for reference cannot be avoided and, if the Sirkar wins, there can be no means of realising the cost from the parties. So that, till the Regulation is amended there is real necessity for hearing Sirkar Vakils. Reference in important cases may be due to the fact that the vakil on the other side may quote some authority while the Revenue Commissioner may not be able to know whether they are overruled or not. I know, as a matter of fact, many instances in which the rulings of one High Court are relied upon. The High Courts hold different views and the Privy Council rulings—for that matter the House of Lords—are to the contrary, so that it may be rather misleading so far as Mr. Robinson is concerned. He is not expected to read all the decisions of the High Courts in India and the courts in England in order to know whether a particular ruling relied upon is correct or to be followed. It may be that in many cases the vakil appearing before him may quote a decision which has been overruled.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is it not for such cases that the power to refer is vested in him?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am coming to that.

It was suggested by my friends on the other side that Sirkar Vakils may be asked to record their opinions. I do not know whether they would press that point, because I believe nothing can be more disastrous to a party if that course is adopted. In that case, the Sirkar Vakils' opinion will be a confidential document and the Land Revenue Commissioner will have to hear the party and then go to his room and simply write out a judgment in accordance with the views of the Sirkar Vakil. I do not know whether this will be satisfactory to the party concerned.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I want to know whether we are to presume that the Sirkar Vakil is a superior legal officer even to the Land Revenue Commissioner.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Certainly.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Is he a compendium of all legal knowledge?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Whether he is or is not, is a different question. He is supposed to be—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I ask whether when the Sirkar Vakil answers a reference he should not point out both sides of the case.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : As an illustration, say Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai appears for the other side. The Sirkar Vakil simply records his opinion. In that case there is every probability of the Income Tax Commissioner following the opinion recorded by the Sirkar Vakil. But if he appears in person and argues, it is open to Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai to say that the Sirkar Vakil is wrong and that his argument cannot hold water. That would certainly have much effect on Mr. Robinson.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : It will be open to him to take the case to the High Court.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : What I ask is, instead of asking the Sirkar Vakil to openly meet the arguments of the other side, and hearing the arguments on both sides and come to a conclusion, will any member of the bar seriously advise that Mr. Robinson should get a private record by sending a reference to the Sirkar Vakil and be willing to be guided by that opinion? I think that would rather be a dangerous procedure.

PRESIDENT: I must draw your attention to the time.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I will take only a minute more.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Will this apply to other references?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : No.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*) : Why?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : In the case of judicial matters no reference is made to us. In the case of notifications or rules reference is made to us and in all matters which are generally excluded from the province of the civil court, references are made to us. In matters judicial we are not recording legal opinions.

[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

There is only one other matter which was said about the Sirkar Vakils by Mr. Panjikaran and, I believe, by Mr. Kunjitomman. Mr. Panjikaran pointedly said that there were very many Sirkar Vakils and that they had not got much work. Of course, I believe, we will have the matter coming up when the judicial budget is taken up, and there may be a good deal of criticism about the Sirkar Vakils then. As for the statement that we are overpaid it depends upon the stand-point from which we view the matter. I can only challenge my friend Mr. Joseph Panjikaran that he need not be under the impression that the Sirkar Vakils are overpaid and that they receive fat pay. I, for one, demur to that statement, because I, at any rate, consider that my services are worth much more than I am paid for and I hope I may be able to prove it to him soon. I therefore say that it is absolutely irrelevant to the point to say that there are many Sirkar Vakils and that they are overpaid.

Then, referring to the question whether they should not appear and do the additional work just as the Munsiff who has to decide cases under the new Regulations, I may say that the fundamental distinction between the Sirkar Vakil and the Munsiff is forgotten. We are not full-time officers. We are not supposed to work all the time for the Government. We are only attached to a particular office. Just as the Munsiff attached to the Trivandrum court need not decide the cases filed in the Neyyattinkara Munsiff's Court, the Head Sirkar Vakil and his Assistants need appear only in the High Court.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): If the case is transfered?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Certainly; so also in matters before the High Court we are bound to appear, and the Sirkar Vakils attached to the District Court should appear before the District Court.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is there any written agreement to the effect that the Sirkar Vakil should only appear before the High Court and the District Court?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I say the past usage is to that effect. I may also say that our Civil Procedure Code makes it obligatory that the suits by or against the Sirkar should be filed in the District Court for the only and simple reason, unlike in British India, that there are Sirkar Vakils attached only to the District Courts here. Otherwise Sirkar suits may be filed in the Munsiff's Court as well; so that it is evident that the Sirkar Vakils are supposed to appear only in the District Court.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is it for the convenience of the Sirkar Vakil that the law is made that Sirkar cases should be filed only in the District Court?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): When it is understood that they are not full-time officers, I say, their convenience also must be looked to, because it is one of the implied conditions of the service.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Are they not taking up private engagement? Is it not the reason that they should take up additional work?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Not necessarily. The Sirkar Vakils cannot be asked to go and appear before any other officer simply because they have time. In that case, why not ask us to go and appear before Division Peishkars or the Conservator of Forests or any other officer?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): That is exactly our difficulty. Is there any difference in the pension or the rate of pay in regard to Sirkar Vakils?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have explained it on more than one occasion. It is by taking into consideration the low rate of pay fixed for the Sirkar Vakils that they are allowed to have private practice.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is there any officer in the State who is satisfied with his pay? (*Laughter.*)

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There may not be; just as Mr. Nidiry is not satisfied with what he earns. (*Laughter.*)

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): In spite of all that has been said on behalf of the Government I still remain unconvinced. I therefore object to the demand, not so much to the amount of Rs. 1,000 now demanded, but I object to it on principle. I find similar provisions in other demands, for instance, the Excise and the Forest Departments. Special law charges for the administration of these fiscal regulations cannot be justified on any reasonable principle. We have got Sirkar Vakils maintained for advising the Government and advocating their cause. It appears to me that it is unjust that law charges should be demanded for the working of these Regulations. On these grounds and on principle I object to the demand and support the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I have nothing more to add than what has already been said in the course of the debate. I myself pointed out however that the only service that would be rendered by these vakils is said to be to ascertain whether there is any doubt which may influence the Income Tax Commissioner to make a reference to the High Court. In regard to that reference, the Sirkar Vakils' Department will be amply sufficient and even otherwise I do not see any particular reason why any vakil should be entertained and fees paid for that purpose. I should certainly consider this to be a demand which does not deserve a grant.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): With reference to Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's arguments

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

I may at the very outset say that it is very difficult to express legal opinion. It is a difficult affair to study the case and look into several High Court rulings before appearing before the Income Tax Commissioner, hearing the arguments of the other side and meeting all the points raised. When the Sirkar Vakil is asked to give an opinion he simply gives it as the case stands before him. But in the course of the arguments fresh points continually arise. As regards the cases that come before me under the Income Tax Regulation, most of them are very simple cases in which the appeals relate to the non-observance by the Collector of certain provisions of the Regulation or his failure to allow certain deductions allowed by the law. These are simple cases and I do not want to know the opinion of the Sirkar Vakil with reference to them. We go into the rules and allow such deductions as are allowed by law. But cases may come up in which complicated points may arise, such, for instance, as a case in which the question as to whether any income accrues and is taxable. That is an instance of a case in which the Sirkar Vakil comes in. In complicated cases the Sirkar Vakil is engaged and he goes to the law library and finds out the ruling from the decisions of the Privy Council in England and sometimes puts the case with an entirely different view on the subject, so much so that even the vakil appearing for the other side goes contented with the verdict in the case. There have been very few cases where the Sirkar Vakil has appeared before me in which there was any application from the parties for reference to the High Court.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyatt'nkara*): May I know whether under the Draft Amendment Bill referred to by Mr. Subba Aiyar, when reference becomes obligatory, the need for any Sirkar Vakil will be required?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I cannot pass an opinion beforehand. It is not fair to ask me to answer the question now. We must consider the matter when it arises.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know as to when the necessity was felt by the Income Tax Commissioner himself?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I know the question was coming. I do not remember what exactly the time was when I was inclined to go to the Sirkar Vakil.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know the number of references made by the Land Revenue Commissioner to the High Court?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think it will be three or four.

Sirkar Vakils appeared in sixteen cases up to now, and out of these sixteen cases, the decisions in six cases have been favourable to the parties. Appeals have been dismissed or references made in five cases and two cases are pending decision. That will show that, in appeals where Sirkar Vakils appear, the decisions have not, in the majority of the cases ended favourably to the Sirkar. I do not think that the objections are so much against the Crown being represented, as against Sirkar Vakils having to be paid extra for appearing in these cases. That is the point and I think Mr. Subba Aiyar has met the arguments very easily and fairly.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Have the Division Peishkars had to hear Sirkar Vakils before sending a reference in respect of the Stamp Regulation?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): They have not done it so far, and I do not think it necessary, because the parties have a final appeal before me.

PRESIDENT: He refers to the Stamp Regulation and not to the Income Tax Regulation.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissoner*): I do not know. I have got nothing to do with it.

PRESIDENT: Have you finished?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissoner*): I think that is all that I have to say. I will only ask the House not to go back upon the verdict which was once given by it in the matter.

PRESIDENT: I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 22 members voting *for* and 17 *against*.

Motions 53 and 54.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

53. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. ·15 lakh under Demand II by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

54. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. ·15 lakh under Demand II by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now put Demand II—Taxes on Income, for Rs. ·15 lakh *minus* Rs. 1,000 disallowed by the House, to the vote of the House, and I take it that the House accepts it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND III—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Acting Excise Commissioner*): I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·05 lakhs under Demand III—Excise Department.

Motion 55.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

55. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,569 under Salaries and Establishment by Rs. 1,440.

Motion 56.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

56. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,569 under Salaries and Establishment in Salt Factories by Rs. 9,372.

Provision is made for 7 Inspectors, 1 Sub-Inspector, 42 Petty Officers and 136 peons. I submit that the allotment may be reduced by Rs. 9,372 which represent the salary of 1 Inspector and the establishment of 10 Petty Officers and 36 peons. Because of my thorough experience of the working of the Salt Factories for the last ten years I may be trusted when I say that the supervision of the factories may be effected efficiently under the reduced establishment proposed.

I would distribute the Inspectors, Petty Officers and peons in the following manner. Under the present arrangement we have 7 Inspectors, I Sub-Inspector, 42 Petty Officers and 136 peons. After removing 1 Inspector, 10 Petty Officers and 36 peons, I propose to distribute the remaining 6 Inspectors, I Sub-Inspector, 32 Petty Officers and 100 peons in the following manner:—

		Inspector.	*Petty Officer.*	*Peons.*
Colachel	...	1	2	4
Rajakamangalam	...	1	3	6
Puttallom and Sri Sankara *allom*	...	1	6	18
Gopalanathan and Krishnamani *allom*	...	1	6	20
Cape Comorin Company and Messrs. Avathanigal's	...	1	6	20
Old *allom*	...	1	4	18
Kumari *allom*	...	...	2	4
Swaminatha Pillai's factory	...	...	...	2
Variyur Sub-Inspector	...	1	1	4
Assistant Commissioner's office	...	...	...	4
6 Inspectors 1 Sub-Inspector	...		30	100

Thus one Inspector, 12 Petty Officers and 36 peons can be made available for work in the northern taluks where the independent shop system is coming into force from Chingam, 1100, onwards.

I am sure my proposal would be acceptable to the Government, to the Excise Commissioner and also to the learned members of this House. The Excise Commissioner might say that every factory should be provided with one Inspector and I may say in reply that if the Cape Comorin Company Factories and Messrs. Avathanigal's could be managed by one Inspector when the total area of those two factories is 300 acres, one Inspector for the S. M. G. N. and S. M. K. M. *alloms* would be quite sufficient, as the total area of the two factories is only 210 acres and the area of Puttallom and Mr. Krishna Aiyar's factory is below 180 acres and in the light of the fact that Puttallom is not a monopoly factory and the Inspector need not supervise the sale of the licensees.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I second Mr. Karayalar, and I am very glad to do so for the reason that Mr. Karayalar is one of those persons who can authoritatively make a statement in regard to the staff required for the *alloms*. Mr. Karayalar has inherited a certain amount of knowledge with regard to salt manufacture. He has acquired great experience in the business in addition to the liberal education that he has obtained, and he proposes to transmit the experience of his family to the succeeding generations. Therefore, I think Mr. Karayalar would not have made this proposal if it was in any way detrimental to salt manufacture or to the interest of the contractors, because if there is a shortage of hands the first man who suffers is the contractor himself. This is not a motion which requires very much of speaking to support it. There is an impression that the Excise Department is overmanned, and that the number of Inspectors and Petty Officers may be reduced. Even yesterday a friend of mine who knows a good deal about South Travancore—I also claim to know something about South Travancore—told me that so many Inspectors and Petty Officers were not required. He made local inspection and he had a talk with some of the officers themselves and with the contractors. and he used his own powers of observation and came to the conclusion that the staff may be reduced. I am stressing this point at this stage for this purpose. Here is a feeling among us that there are too many officers in the Excise Department and here is a man, the mover of this proposition, who knows all about salt manufacture and who knows the way of the officers, who has gone to South Travancore in connection with the salt business any number of times, coming forward to say that so many Inspectors are not necessary. I would request my friends on the other side to view the situation from all the standpoints and we shall be able to do very much work in case this proposition is not opposed on the other side. It is for that reason that I am explaining this motion.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I was also in charge of the Salt Factories for a period of three years and as such I can also speak with authority on the subject in question. I therefore oppose the motion for the following reason. The question of the number of Inspectors in the Salt Factories Division

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

was discussed at length at the budget debates of 1097 and 1098 and the House was good enough to pass the demand. Of the seven Inspectors employed in the Salt Factories Division 5 are in charge of the factories at and about Tamarakulam, one in charge of the Salt Factory at Rajakkamangalam and the other in charge of the Salt Factory and Sea Customs House at Colachel. The Inspector at Colachel having control over two institutions has barely enough time to attend to both. He is also the Port Officer at Colachel. The Inspector at Rajakkamangalam who is in charge of the old and new factories there is necessary, since the factories at Rajakkamangalam cannot be added on to any of the neighbouring factories which are 13 and odd miles away.

There are ten factories at Tamarakulam and there are only five Inspectors.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the area of the salt factory at Tamarakulam?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): 1,100 and odd acres.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that all these 1,100 acres are under salt cultivation?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is the extent of the premises. The salt area is only 473 acres.

Whenever possible one Inspector is given two factories when they are adjacent to each other and where it is found that the Inspector can discharge his duties without detriment to Government revenue. One Inspector is in charge of the Extension Factories Nos. I and II, another in charge of Puttallom, a third in charge of the Srimulagopalanathan *allom*, the fourth in charge of Srimulakrishnamani and Sri Sankara factories and the fifth is in charge of Tamarakulam old and old Extension factories. The area allotted to each Inspector is too much for a single officer to effectively discharge the duties allotted to him. The duties and obligations imposed by the Salt Rules are of varied character and unless there is a responsible officer on the spot the rules are sure to be evaded with consequent loss of revenue. Almost every provision contained in the Salt Rules fixes the responsibility on the officer in charge of the factory to see to its enforcement. The responsibility begins with the letting of the brine into the pans and continues till the salt manufactured is issued out and the duty thereon is remitted into the treasury. Under Section 3 (4) the officer in charge of the factory is bound to see to the good quality of the salt manufactured and it is also his duty to see that after every fifth scraping the pans are entirely emptied and the bitterns thrown away and fresh brine run in before scraping is resumed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether the issue of salt to merchants takes place simultaneously in all the factories?

Is there not an order that the issue of salt should be made in consecutive order and not all together?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that.

PRESIDENT. You may come somewhere here to the front, Mr. Govinda Pillai, and speak. Then you will be heard better.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): He should also see that no salt is scraped ordinarily when the density of the brine in the pans exceeds 30° beaume. The regulation of scraping is also fixed on the Inspector (*Vide* section 27). Under Section 3 (10) the Factory Inspector is responsible for seeing at the close of the manufacture that the licensee drains off all brine from his condensers and crystallising beds such manner as to prevent the formation of spontaneous salt. If any such salt is formed the factory officer is authorised to destroy it at the licensee's expense. Again, after the salt is scraped it has to be removed to the drying ground. But under the Salt Rules (Section 26) no salt can be removed to the drying ground unless estimated by the estimating officer who is always the Inspector in charge of the factory. Before salt is taken to the place of storage it should be sufficiently dry, and if it is not so, the factory officer is authorised to refuse to allow the storage of salt (*vide* section 40).

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know how often he does this---this estimation of scraping, etc.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is all regularly done.

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How often in a week or month?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): As soon as the salt is removed from the pan to the ridges it is estimated.

It is the business of the Inspector to allot and regulate storage accommodation among the licensees. (*Vide* Section 35 to 38.) If a licensee fails to store within the prescribed time the Inspector of the factory under section 39 should take steps for the storage at the licensee's cost. Under Section 48 it is the factory Inspector who should receive the application for salt and the amount due to the Government on the salt to be removed from the factory and he is responsible for its safe remittance into the treasury the same day. When sales are going on in two factories at once it would be physically impossible for one Inspector to discharge the function in both factories. That is what happens in the case of Mr. Karayalar's factory and Mr. Krishna Aiyar's factory. The business would begin at 9 or 10 A. M. and he can go to Mr. Karayalar's factory at 1 P. M. While I was in charge of the factories Mr. Karayalar complained to me that the placing of one Inspector for two factories was annoying.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): That is the very reason why I propose one Inspector to be in charge of our two factories.

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That may be; but he has complained to me.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is there not a standing rule that the issue should be made from one factory after another only, at a time?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No, there is no such rule. All the factories are kept open and the merchants are at liberty to purchase from whatever factory they like.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I was myself in charge of the Salt Factories. I think there is a rule that the salt must be issued factory after factory.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No, it is not so.

Under Section 48 it is the factory Inspector who should receive the application for salt and the amount due to the Government on the salt to be removed from the factory and he is responsible for its safe remittance into the treasury the same day.

PRESIDENT: You have got only ten minutes.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): This is a very wide question.

PRESIDENT: You may state all the points briefly.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): What I am explaining is fully known to Mr. Karayalar himself.

PRESIDENT: You should explain it to the House also.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have not much to read; there is only about a page more.

Under Sections 15 and 17 any application for the transfer of right of any of the licensees has to be enquired into by the Factory Inspector and disposed of. The provisions relating to check-weighment contained in Sections 58 to 60 throw more serious responsibility on the Factory Inspectors. The above are only some of the duties of the Inspector in charge of a salt factory. In fact a kind perusal of the conditions usually embodied in a license (*vide* Sections 3 and 6) will show the extent of responsibility on the part of the Inspector in charge of the factory. It will be observed from a perusal of the Salt Rules that the Inspector has barely enough time to attend to the multifarious duties devolving upon him. At present there are two instances where one Inspector manages two factories, but they are cases where one or both the factories are in an undeveloped state. When fully developed, these factories will need separate Inspectors.

Besides, the way in which salt is stored may also be dealt with in this connection. Salt is stored in heaps in open spaces. These heaps are covered with palmyrah or cocoanut leaves and the open spaces are no doubt fenced round with prickly pear. But the fencing is after all

a poor protection against theft of salt. Instances of theft of salt are not infrequent. The slightest collusion between the licensees and a few low-paid subordinates who are posted for guard duty will give rise to numerous thefts resulting in serious loss of revenue to Government. Even if salt is stolen on account of the indifference of the licensees or the low-paid subordinates, the former lose only $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ as. per maund, *i. e.*, cost of production, while Government lose Bh. Re. one and annas four and sometimes more per maund.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Govinda Pillai whether the subordinates of the Excise Department, the Petty Officers and others, are corrupt.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible to prevent corruption when there are more than 150 men. There is corruption not only in our Department. There are black sheep everywhere.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it not possible to prevent corruption by getting rid of these black sheep?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible to prevent it in a department where there are such a large number of employees. How could it be possible? (*Laughter.*)

Government have thus a greater stake in the salt and it is therefore in the interests of the Government that there should be effective check of the patrol work of the subordinates and this the Inspector will not be able to do if the area of jurisdiction is further increased. Again, the Inspector should be present when the salt is being issued out as he is responsible for the correct weighment and check-weighment and realisation of Government dues.

From what I have said already it will be clear, if the House is dispassionate, that every Inspector has got ample work to perform if the rules are to be strictly enforced. Probably, there may occur a revision of the rules. Then, of course, the question is different. But if the present rules are to be strictly enforced, every Inspector will have sufficient duty to perform and therefore, I hope, Mr. Karayalar, having known all these things, will be kind enough to withdraw the motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I have provided one Inspector for our two *alloms* and one Inspector for each of the other *alloms*.

PRESIDENT: You will have to say that in your reply. You have a right of reply.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask whether there is any rule that the arrack from the distillery—

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is a different question. I will be coming to that. We will go to arrack. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I know that is a different question. Arrack and salt are two different things. My question is whether there is any rule that arrack should

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

be issued only by the Inspectors in charge of the warehouses and not by the Petty Officers.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Under the present orders, the Petty Officers are empowered to issue chalans and to issue arrack also in the absence of the Inspector. It was at the time when the member was in the Department that the Inspector alone had the power to issue arrack. It was only recently that the rule was changed.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Is it necessary under the present rules that the Inspector alone should issue arrack from the distillery?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Can the Petty Officer do so?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Why not the same thing be done in the case of salt? Cannot the Petty Officer do this work which is now said to be done by the Inspector?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The cases are different. The position of the Inspector as regards the warehouse has not been defined by any rules. But in the case of salt, it has been defined by rules passed by His Highness the Maha Raja. In the case of arrack it is only a departmental order; not so in the case of salt.

PRESIDENT: What is the essential difference between the two? If the Petty Officer can issue arrack, why not he do so in the case of salt? That is what Mr. Velu Pillai asks.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): As regards salt, the Petty Officer has different functions to perform at the time the Inspector has to issue salt.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Cannot these rules be changed?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is not the work of the department. Probably that is left for you.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ൧൦൯൮-ൽനിന്നും ൧൦൯൯-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോഴേക്കും ഉപ്പിന്റെ വിലകുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): അന്നത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവിൽനിന്ന് ഇപ്പോൾ എത്രകൂടീട്ടുണ്ട്?

PRESIDENT: How does it arise here? The question is about the sufficiency or insufficiency of the staff. Mr. Karayalar has brought forward a motion that a portion of the staff could be dispensed with without detriment to the work in the salt pans. That is the question under discussion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It has been the practice in this House when demands are brought forward by the heads of departments to catalogue a number of duties of the officers. It is said 'the officer has to do this, that and the other, and unless this demand is sanctioned the whole house will collapse like a pack of cards.' That is what we have been hearing from many of the heads of important departments; for instance, the Land Revenue Commissioner said that unless the Assistant Tahsildars—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I never referred to any pack of cards. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): After all is said and done there are only five or ten factories in Tamarakulam. One is the neighbour of the other and there is just one lake dividing one factory from the other. I was myself Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of Salt Factories for a long time and I have studied closely the conditions there. When I was there, there was only one Inspector in charge of two of the big factories there which used to manufacture about 4 lakhs of maunds of salt. All this talk about issue and testing of the brine may be told to the marines, but the sailors will not believe it. As a matter of fact, the issue generally takes place only from individual factories, and if it is not so, it is not impossible to arrange the matter so as to have issues made from one factory alone at a time. The testing of brine is also done by the Inspector, the Petty Officer and a few peons. This, though an important work, is not the herculean task it is stated to be. As regards the weighing of salt, it is done by the Petty Officer and checked by the Inspector. There is the Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of all these, and he can come at any moment to supervise all the work that is being done by the subordinate officers. So I contend that one Inspector can very well be in charge of two factories. As suggested by Mr. Karayalar, some of the Inspectors in the salt factories may be transferred to the northern taluks where they say they want some men on account of the introduction of the independent shop system there, and no new grant need be made now. Mr. Karayalar, I am very glad to see, has come to help us in this respect. As stated by Mr. Velu Pillai, Mr. Karayalar has first-hand knowledge of the subject and I think the information he gives us is very valuable. I fully expect the Acting Excise Commissioner to make this reduction in this allotment. I fully support Mr. Karayalar's motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, I have proposed certain reductions in the staff in the Salt Factories and I have not lost sight of the interest either of Government or of the public or of the licensees. It is my practical experience of

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

the working of the salt factories in the last ten years that has enabled me to come to the conclusion that the staff that I propose to reduce is quite unnecessary. My friend the Ag. Excise Commissioner urged that one Inspector was necessary and I have provided one Inspector for each factory. The only alteration that I have made is in respect of the Sri Sankara *allom* and Sri Krishnamani *allom* being placed under the control of one Inspector. I have taken away Sri Krishnamani *allom* from the control of that Inspector and added instead, the Gopalanathan *allom*. That is the only change. There is one Inspector for Puttallom. He may be asked to control the Sri Sankara *allom* also, because the salt scraped from Puttallom goes to Government and not to the licensees. There is one Inspector in the Cape Comorin Company *allom* and Messrs. Avathanigal's *allom*. There is no reason why one should not attend to both of our *alloms*. The statement that the Inspectors alone attend in these *alloms*, I cannot believe, because, as a matter of fact, invariably the Petty Officers do this work and the Inspectors only do the check-weighment. Therefore, practically there would be no difficulty in working these factories even after the proposed reduction is made. I propose to reduce one Inspector, 10 Petty Officers and 36 peons, and I say, these officers can very well be deputed to the taluks in North Travancore where the independent shop system is proposed to be introduced.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Under the existing rules all the factories—

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Under the existing rules, when one factory is opened all the other factories also are opened, so that the merchant may go from factory to factory and purchase salt from whichever factory he likes. In some factories the salt may be bad. The merchant may not like it. He may like to purchase from the factory which has good salt. This is only consistent with the rules. If this is to be done, there must be one Inspector for each factory. The reduction of the staff would, therefore, be against the Salt Rules. Further, at present, each factory produces a good deal of salt and the whole has to be weighed, stored and sold under the supervision of the Inspector. The testing of the brine and the removal of bad salt from good salt has been entirely left to the Inspector. Therefore, one Inspector is absolutely necessary to look after the big factories comprising about forty-five acres each.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): I have already provided—

PRESIDENT: Are you putting a question to the Excise Commissioner?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Shencottah cum Pattanapuram*): I have nothing more to ask.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Under these circumstances, I beg to bring to the notice of the House that any

reduction will tell upon Government revenue and lead to malpractices in the factories.

As regards Puttallom, which Mr. Karayalar referred to, the Government, no doubt, have a right to take all the salt there for their use, but if the people want that salt, Government sell that salt also, along with the salt in other factories.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): In regard to that—

PRESIDENT: You are not in order, Mr. Karayalar. You have to sit down. You can only put a question now.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have nothing more to say except that any reduction in the staff in the salt factories would tell upon Government revenue and probably we may get a lot of complaints from the other licensees.

The motion was then put to the vote of the House and lost.

Motion 57.

The following motion was not made :—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

57. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,569 for salaries and Establishment by Rs. 1,716.

(Reduction of 1 Sub-Inspector, 2 Petty Officers and 6 peons.)

Motion 58.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I move the following :—

58. *To reduce the allotment of Rs.* 9,813 *for Petty Officers by Rs.* 429.

(*Reduction of 2 Petty Officers for the Kumari Allom.*)

PRESIDENT: You do not make a speech?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No, I do not make any speech.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Acting Excise Commissioner*): The Kumari *allom* is a factory very lately opened by Mr. T. V. Krishna Aiyar. It comprises 16·98 acres of which 9 acres have been already opened and 803 pans laid out last year. 150 to 180 maunds of salt were scraped out and now our duty is to see that the salt stored is not stolen by anybody. The presence of the Petty Officers in safeguarding the salt there is absolutely necessary, since the Inspector will be attending only to the older factories. Our request is only for the bare minimum number of hands to look after the factory called Kumari *allom*.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it a new *allom*?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is quite a new *allom*. For the above reasons, I oppose the motion.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I withdraw the motion

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 59 to 61.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

59. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,075 for peons by Rs. 649.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

60. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,290 for Salt Factories by Rs. 100.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

61. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,290 for Salt Factories by Rs. 100.

Motion 62.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

62. *To reduce the allotment of Rs.* 52,400 *for salt business by Rs.* 100.

ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ഭരണനയങ്ങളെയും അതിലുള്ള ന്യൂനതകളേയും ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ടാണ് ഈ മോഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു. ൧൦൯൯ ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. രാമൻപിള്ള ഹാജരാക്കിയ മോഷനിൽ നടന്ന വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ ഏറ്റവും ശ്രദ്ധേയമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്, ആ വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന പലവിധമായ അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി വേണ്ടപോലെ തെളിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിലയ്ക്കു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപ്പു കിട്ടിവരുന്നില്ലെന്നും, കച്ചവടക്കാർ അമിതമായ ലാഭം എടുത്തുവരുന്നു എന്നും ആ വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഭംഗിയായി തെളിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു അപ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങനെ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"With regard to the complaint that the price of salt has been raised, I have to make one or two observations. The merchants sometimes unconscionably raise prices much to the detriment to the poor. That is being constantly watched by my officers and myself. They are bound to report to me the fluctuations in the price of salt in any locality. Any merchant selling salt at a higher rate will lose the privilege of getting salt from the depôts. If the price at any place rises very high, we rush in salt as a temporary measure and offer it at a low price."

അതേ ദിവസം അതേ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി മിസ്റ്റർ മാധവവാര്യർ ഹാജരാക്കിയ ഒരു മോഷനിൽ നടന്ന വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾക്കു അപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു ഇങ്ങനെ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"Directly the depôt was closed,' (Port salt depôt, Trivandrum) the effect was seen. The local traders raised the price, because there was no check here. Immediately there

were complaints and Mr. Adam Sait raised the question in the Legislative Council and on enquiry, the grievance that the prices were high in Trivandrum was found to be true. The depôt was therefore reopened."

തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാല ൧൦൯൫ മകരമാസത്തിൽ നിറുത്താൻ ഇടയായി. അതിൽപിന്നീടു തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഉപ്പിനു വിലകൂട്ടുകയും, അതിന്മേൽ പരാതികളും നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദ്യങ്ങളും വന്നതിൽപിന്നീട് അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയപ്പോൾ സംഗതി വാസ്തവമാണെന്നു കാണുകയും അതിൽപിന്നീടു തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു വീണ്ടും ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാല തുറക്കയും ചെയ്തു എന്നാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഒരേദിവസം ഒരേസംഗതിയെപ്പററി മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒരു യോജിപ്പും ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു വീണ്ടും ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാല തുറന്നതു ൧൦൯൬ വൃശ്ചികമാസത്തിൽ-അതായതു ൨൨ മാസങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞതിൽപിന്നീടാണ്. രാജധാനിയായ തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിൽ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ താമസിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ സ്ഥലത്തു കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഉപ്പിനു വില കൂട്ടിവിററതായ ഈ കാലങ്ങളിൽ എക്സൈസുകമ്മിഷണരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉടനെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു നടപടികൾ നടത്തുകയൊ, ആ വിവരം റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്കയൊ അദ്ദേഹം അതിലേക്കു ഉടനെ പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുകയൊ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിൻെറ ഭരണത്തിൽ തലസ്ഥാനമായ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു നടത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ കച്ചവടക്കാർ വിലകൂട്ടിവില്ക്കാൻ ഇടവരികയും അതിനെ ഉടനെ തടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം ഉൾനാടുകളിലെ സ്ഥിതി എന്തായിത്തീരുമെന്നുള്ളതു വർണ്ണിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഏതു സ്ഥലത്തായിരുന്നാലും ഉപ്പിനു വിലകൂട്ടി വില്ക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിൻെറ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വേണ്ടപോലെ സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും, വിലകളുടെ കൂടുതൽകുറവുകളെപ്പററി അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്വാൻ അവർ നിർബന്ധപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുമാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഒരു നാട്ടുംപുറത്തു താമസക്കാരനും അവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾ നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാൻ സൌകര്യമുള്ളതുമായ എനിക്ക് ഈ സംഗതി വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉൾനാടുകളിലുള്ള കടകമ്പോളങ്ങളിൽ കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു തോന്നിയ വിലയ്ക്കു് ഉപ്പു വിററുവരുന്നു എന്നല്ലാതെ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിൻെറ ആളുകളിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ മേൽപരിശോധന നടത്തിവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളത് എനിക്കു ധൈര്യമായി പറയാവുന്നതാണ്.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഉപ്പുകച്ചവടക്കാർ അളങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഉപ്പു വാങ്ങി ന്യായമായ ലാഭമെടുത്തിട്ടു ചില്ലറ കച്ചവടക്കാൎക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേയും ചില്ലറ കച്ചവടക്കാർ തമ്മിൽ യോജിച്ചു വില നിശ്ചയിച്ചാണ് അവർ വില്ക്കുന്നത്. ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ചാപ മുദ്രയ്ക്കു് ഇന്നവിലവച്ചു വില്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് എക്സൈസു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടുകളിൽ നിന്നും കാണുന്നത്. ആ നിശ്ചയങ്ങളെല്ലാം ക്ലിപ്തങ്ങളും കടലാസുകളിൽ മാത്രമേ കാണാറുള്ളു. ഉപ്പു വില്പനയിൽ ചാപമുദ്ര ഇടങ്ങഴി ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ ആരും ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ല. അവൎക്കു ചെറുകള്ളവും ഭാരവുമായ അളവുകളാണ് ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നത്. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപ്പുവില്ക്കുന്ന ചില്ലറ കച്ചവടക്കാർ ചാക്കിന് ഒരു രൂപാമുതൽ രണ്ടുരൂപാവരെ ലാഭമെടുത്തുവരുന്നതു സാധാരണയാണ്.

കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ അക്രമമായ ഈ പ്രവൃത്തിയെ തടുക്കാനൊ നിയന്ത്രിക്കാനൊ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ല.

ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാലകളിൽ നിന്നും കച്ചവടക്കാൎക്ക് ഉപ്പുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ അധികൃതന്മാർ കാണിച്ചുവരുന്ന അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ഈ സമയത്തു വടക്കൻദിക്കിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാന കച്ചവടക്കാരനും, ഈ നിയമസഭയിലെ ഒരു മെംബരുമായ മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"I am a merchant doing business at Alwaye. The merchants of Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad, and Todupuzha are my constituents. I am dealing with all commodities except salt and a few other things. I know that merchants are selling salt at Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 whereas the actual cost is Rs. 7 according to the Government Rules. To get salt, the excise authorities issue rules and select a few merchants who are the favourites of the Assistant Commissioners or others. I can give evidence that those who pay or do something to please the Assistant Commissioner, and others alone get salt."

അതേവിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ വേറെയൊരു ഘട്ടത്തിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"In the Munambam salt depôt, three pies are to be given to the depôt officers to get salt. Now, at this time, to get salt early, the merchants will have to pay more. Otherwise they will have to stay there for many days; the depôt officer will say: "It is not convenient to me; there are other people who will have to be sold salt to," and so on. So to get salt early, the merchants have to pay something to the officers. In our place, salt was sold at eight chackrams per *edangali*, the cost price of which is only three and a half chackrams. I have brought this matter to the notice of Government also, but I received no reply."

അതേ സംഗതിയിൽ വേറൊരവസരത്തിൽ വീണ്ടും അദ്ദേഹം ഇങ്ങനെപറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"About the Assistant Commissioners, the merchants say they have to pay Re. 1 and depôt officer three pies".

കൈക്കൂലിക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചു പറയുന്നതിന് ഇവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾ മുമ്പിട്ടുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നും അതിനാൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും അവരുടെ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കും വേണ്ടതു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരുന്നു എന്നും ൯-ാമത്തെ പ്രജാസഭയിൽ കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പററി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള നിവേദനങ്ങൾക്കു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Mr. Stephenson is just now sitting on the non-official side. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: I should be very glad if that is permanent. If all of us could join the non-official side, there would be no difference in the House. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): മേൽ വിവരിച്ച സംഗതികൾ തുറന്ന കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ച് അതിലെ ഒരു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെംബർ വ്യക്തമായ ഭാഷയിൽ ആളുകളെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിട്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തോളമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിലേക്ക് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ എന്തു നടപടികൾ നടത്തി എന്നും, അതിന്മേൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് എന്തു ചെയ്തു എന്നും ഇതുവരെ ആർക്കും അറിയാൻപാടില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഉപ്പു വില്പനയിലുള്ള അഴിമതികൾ നിറുത്തേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു. പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പു വാങ്ങുമ്പോൾ കൈക്കൂലി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്ന നഷ്ടം പലിശയോടുകൂടി ഉപ്പുവാങ്ങുന്ന സാധുക്കളിൽനിന്നും കച്ചവടക്കാർ വാങ്ങുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യും. അങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിലയ്ക്കു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപ്പു കിട്ടാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പു വിൽക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അഴിമതികളെയും അതിനെ സൌകര്യമാക്കി കച്ചവടക്കാർ ജനങ്ങളോട് അതിയായ ലാഭമെടുത്തുവരുന്നതിനെയും മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ചു ഭംഗിയായി തെളിയിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനെ ദുർബലപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന് എന്തെല്ലാം സമാധാനങ്ങൾ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ് പറഞ്ഞു എന്നിരുന്നാലും പരമാർത്ഥമായ സംഗതികളെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽനിന്നും ആർക്കും മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഉപ്പുവില്പന മുതലായ പലേ അഴിമതികളും എക്സൈസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെ

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

ന്ററിൽ ഓരോ ദിവസവും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ഈ അഴിമതികളെ നിറുത്തുന്നതിന് ഇന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിനെക്കൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കുമെന്ന്, ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെസ്ഥിതികളെപ്പററി അറിയാവുന്നവരിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ കരുതുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ അതിലേക്കു സാമർത്ഥ്യവും, ശക്തിയും, സത്യസന്ധതയും ഉള്ള ഒരാളെ എക്സൈസ് ഭരണം ഏല്പിക്കുന്നതു ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ യശസ്സിനും, ജനങ്ങളുടെ നന്മയ്ക്കും അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am aware, Sir, that there is a charge against certain Excise Officers of the Northern Division. Mr. Van Ross, the Excise Commissioner, proceeded to the north with a view to make an enquiry into the serious nature of the charge. But I regret to say that the person who made the charge against the officer was not able to substantiate or give proper evidence in respect of the charge. He did not even help in the enquiry.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I protest against that. I did not say so.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is my information.

As regards the sale of salt—

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner, whether any statement was taken from Mr. Khadir Pillai? Was there any investigation conducted, and was any record made?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I think so.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): The member does not know that definitely?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I think a certain record was made.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the member be pleased to lay it on the table?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was Mr. Khadir Pillai informed of the fact that an investigation was going to be made?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes. The charge was not proved. And a record of the investigation was made.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Had he—

PRESIDENT: Have you had occasion to read the file and the papers connected with the subject, Mr. Govinda Pillai?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No, I have not read the file.

PRESIDENT: What is it Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai? Do you want to put a question?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): That was the question I wanted to put.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): As regards the raising of the price of salt, I beg to submit—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Is the Excise Commissioner in a position to give difinite information with regard to the particulars of the investigation?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No. As regards the raising of the price of salt, the Excise Commissioner has no power to fix the price or the rate at which salt has to be sold. What we can do whenever a complaint is made, is that we can make some temporary arrangement to satisfy the public needs. We can open a factory and send some quantity of salt so that prices may be kept down. And we will make a note of the complaint and enquire into it. It is with that object that the salt factory at Valiaturai was re-opened. It is to a certain extent true that the prices were occasionally raised by the people of the taluk.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ വിവരം എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ മുമ്പാകെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി നടപടി നടത്തീട്ടില്ല. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ മുമ്പാകെ വച്ചു കൂടുതൽ വിലയ്ക്കു വിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ടു. അപ്പോഴും ഒന്നും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലല്ലോ.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): എനിക്കതിനെപ്പറ്റി അറിവുകിട്ടിട്ടില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): What I ask is, cannot the Department sell salt so as to put down prices?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The policy of the department is not to enter into trade as a private business. We have left it to open competition. If there are two persons, both of them probably may collude together and raise the price. But the best thing will be to leave it to public competition. I think it is not the work of the Department to enter into trade, which must be carried on by private persons. That is why salt depôts alone are reserved so that merchants may come freely and purchase salt.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether, when prices of salt went up almost double of what they were in the depôts, the department rushed salt to Alwaye to keep down the prices.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Will the member be pleased to repeat the question? I did not hear him.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): There was an inordinate inflation of prices in Alwaye. It formed the subject of complaint in the

[President.]

House by Mr. Khadir Pillai and others. I wish to know whether, when those high prices were prevailing at Alwaye, the Department rushed some salt to Alwaye to reduce the price, which, Mr. Govinda Pillai said, was the practice of the Department.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, the Munambam depôt is maintained for the supply of salt to the four taluks of Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha. But when there was no Bombay salt in the Alleppey depôt, people from Changanachery, Ettumanar, Kottayam and other places rushed in and it is our duty to see that the salt supply is sufficient for the four taluks for which the Munambam depôt is intended. But when there is demand from Changanachery, Kottayam and other places, it has been the custom sometimes to restrict the sale so that the salt may not go out of the four taluks.

PRESIDENT: You are not answering his question. He wants to know whether salt was rushed to Alwaye when a complaint was made to this House that the prices ruling were excessive.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have no information.

PRESIDENT: Have you anything more to say?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Nothing more remains to be answered.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): A word of personal explanation.

PRESIDENT: You have got the right to speak. So you may speak.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I made some complaints about the high rate of salt in my place last year. The merchants told me that they had to pay one rupee to get the authorities to sell salt. The Excise Commissioner came there for investigation and asked me to give evidence. I told him that what I said in the Council was true. The Assistant Excise Commissioner admitted that fact.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was it in the presence of the Excise Commissioner that he admitted?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Yes.

He got an order from the Government to increase the rate of salt on the 1st March and he received a telegram on the 3rd or 4th. During that time, an interval of three or four days, the depôt officer issued salt at the higher rate to some of the merchants. It is on that account that they received Re. 1 extra from the merchants. The Excise Commissioner was satisfied that the extra money received had been remitted into the treasury. So I wanted to give no more evidence. I proved what I said in the Council.

PRESIDENT: So what you want to say is that the extra levy was made under the orders of Government and remitted into the treasury.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I had no information at that time. So I made that statement here.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether Mr. Khadir Pillai is still maintaining the old position that he assumed in the House, namely, that a certain officer realised more than the amount due ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : The merchants told me that the Assistant Excise Commissioner required money.

*MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഹജി ഗവർമെൻറിലേക്ക കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടൊ ? മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള എഴുതി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടൊ ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : ഉണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആകാലത്താണൊ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : അതേ. ആ കാലത്തുതന്നെ ക്ഷാമവും മററും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നകാലത്തു തന്നെ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഹജി അയച്ചതിൽപിന്നീടോ, മുമ്പോ ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : അതിൽ പിന്നീടുതന്നെ.

PRESIDENT : The complaint then made by Mr. Khadir Pillai was that some illegal extra levy was made. What he now explains is that the extra levy was a regular levy.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ആകാലത്താണൊ ഈ മൂന്നുപൈസായും അതിൽ കൂടുതലായും പിരിച്ചുവന്നിരുന്നത് ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : അത് ഇപ്പോഴും ഉണ്ട്. കച്ചവടക്കാർ അങ്ങനെയാണ് വില്ക്കുന്നത്. അത് ധർമ്മക്കൂലിയാണ്.

PRESIDENT : You have to explain it if you have not finished your say.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I have finished.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Before Mr. Khadir Pillai sits down, may I ask how long or for what period this levy, or whatever it is called, was recovered ?

PRESIDENT : To what levy are you referring ? There are two or three levies.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : The bigger levy.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I beleive, for a month.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was a list of all the merchants who paid the levy kept, and were they bound to recover it?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Mr. Khadir Pillai cannot answer, because he has sat down. Because another member has put a question he cannot answer, for he has already sat down.

PRESIDENT: He cannot—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, may I also rise to a point of order—whether the gentleman has the right to sit down when a question is asked. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: He is not bound to answer. Further, no question can be put to a member after he has sat down.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-10 P. M.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, in regard to the allegations made by Mr. Khadir Pillai, I should like to say a word by way of explanation. At the meeting of the Council held in August, 1923, Mr. Khadir Pillai made the following allegation:

"I am a merchant doing business at Alwaye. The merchants of Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad and Todupuzha are my constituents. I am dealing in almost all commodities except salt and a few other things. I know that merchants are selling salt at Rs. 10 and Rs. 12, whereas the actual cost is Rs. 7 according to the Government rules."

Again he said:

"To get salt, the Excise authorities issue rules and select a few merchants who are the favourites of the Assistant Commissioners or others. I can give evidence that those who pay or do something to please the Assistant Commissioner and others alone get salt."

When he was asked whether he had sent a letter to the Dewan, Mr. Khadir Pillai replied:

"But some others forged my name and sent a letter. The contents of the letter however, are true; but the Commissioner did not send me the letter as desired by me."

I wish to read another statement also made by Mr. Khadir Pillai.

"Mr. Mammen Mappillai told us that there is some *mamool* going on in the depôts. That also I can say is true, for in the Munambam salt depot three pies are to be given to the depôt officers to get salt. Now, at this time, to get salt early, the merchants will have to pay more. Otherwise they will have to stay there for many days; the depôt officer will say: "It is not convenient to me; there are other people who will have to be sold salt to," and so on. So to get salt early, the merchants have to pay something to the officers. In our place, salt was sold at 8 *chackrams* per *edangali*, the cost price of which is only three and a half *chackrams*."

In regard to these statements, the Excise Commissioner said that, in view of the definite statements made by Mr. Khadir Pillai, he would be prepared to take definite action, and hoped that Mr. Khadir Pillai would help him in the matter. Mr. Van Ross accordingly proceeded to

Alwaye early in Chingam 1099 to hold an enquiry into the matter. He asked Mr. Khadir Pillai to meet him at Alwaye on the 7th with the witnesses he proposed examine in connection with the enquiry. But Mr. Khadir Pillai did not produce any witnesses nor did he give a list of witnesses to be examined. On the other hand, Mr. Khadir Pillai handed over to the Commissioner a letter stating that the remarks he made in the Legislative Council against Mr. Oommen were based on the allegations of the merchants of Alwaye. On enquiry among the merchants Mr. Van Ross understood that some merchants had been asked by Mr. Oommen to pay the excess duty on salt sold after the new rate of duty came into force. Hence the statements of Mr. Khadir Pillai in regard to Mr. Oomman were incorrect. Mr. Khadir Pillai also requested Mr. Van Ross that no further enquiry need be made in the matter. The latter also took a statement from Mr. Khadir Pillai in regard to the three pies alleged to have been levied at the Munambam depôt. The statement ran thus:

> "Besides the collection on account of the excess duty which I now understand has been the case, I am not aware of any collection made by the Assistant Excise Commissioner for any other purpose. The collection of three pies at the Munambam depot was made by the contractor for charitable purposes. I am not aware that it prevails now."

I have nothing more to say. Independently of the statement made by Mr. Khadir Pillai, Mr. Van Ross made a personal enquiry and found that the allegations made against Mr. Oommen were absolutely unfounded. Accordingly he made a report to Government and it was recorded.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is that report available for the Council?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no objection to the report being placed before the Council. I did not do it out of deference to Mr. Khadir Pillai who is a member of this House.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ മുനമ്പം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽ നടന്നുവന്നിരുന്നതായ കൈക്കൂലികളെപ്പററി മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതിനു എത്രയോ മുമ്പുതന്നെ ഫാറസ്റ്റ കമ്മിററിക്കായി ആലുവായിൽ എത്തിയിരുന്ന അനൌദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെമ്പറന്മാരായ ഞങ്ങളോടു പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി ഞങ്ങളോടു പറയുമ്പോൾ നിയമസഭാമെമ്പർ മിസ്റ്റർ എ. ഗോവിന്ദമേനവനും കൂടിയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിലുള്ള ഈ അഴിമതികളെപ്പററി മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള മാത്രമല്ല അവിടെവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പലരും ഞങ്ങളോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഞങ്ങളോടു പറയുന്നതിനുണ്ടായ കാരണംതന്നെ ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ അവിടെ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന അഴിമതികളെപ്പററി ഞങ്ങൾ എല്ലാവരും ഒന്നുചേർന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിലേക്ക് എഴുതിഅയക്കണമെന്നു

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ള്ളതിനായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അവിടത്തെ ഉപ്പു വില്പനയിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി വിവരം ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനെ അറിയിക്കുന്നതിനു സമയവും സൗകൎയ്യവും പോരാതെ വന്നതിനാൽ അതിലേക്കു സാധിച്ചില്ല. ആ ചുമതല മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ളതന്നെ വഹിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഞങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തോട് അപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഈ വിവരങ്ങൾ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണൎക്കും ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനും എഴുതി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അതിലേക്കു മറുപടിയോ, ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിലുള്ള കൈക്കൂലികൾക്കു കുറവോ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നും ഞങ്ങളോട് അപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഈ സംഭവങ്ങളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ഈ സമയത്തു നിയമസഭയിൽ വച്ചു മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. ഡാനിയൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്.

"When we were at Alwaye recently to attend a meeting of the Forest Committee, this grievance of the public was brought before us as well."

വാസ്തവങ്ങൾ ഇങ്ങനെയെല്ലാമാണെങ്കിലും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ സ്ഥലത്തുപോയി അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള കാൎയ്യങ്ങളെ ദുർബലപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട വ്യാഖ്യാനങ്ങളോടുകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനു റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി ഗവർണ്മെന്റു സമാധാനപ്പെട്ടുമായിരിക്കാമെന്നിരുന്നാലും ഈ സംഗതികൾ അനുഭവത്താൽ അറിയാവുന്ന ജനങ്ങളെ സമാധാനപ്പെടുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ അഭിമാനത്തേയും പബ്ലിക്ക സർവ്വീസിന്റെ കളങ്കരഹിതമായ നിലയേയും പരിപാലിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഇത്തരം സംഗതികളിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു മേലധികാരികൾ വേണ്ടപോലെ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി കുറ്റക്കാരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു പകരം അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കാൻ നോക്കുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. പബ്ലിക്ക സർവ്വീസിനെ നിഷ്കളങ്കമായി വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഗവർണ്മെന്റും ജനങ്ങളും കരുതുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെ ഇരുകൂട്ടൎക്കും ഒരുപോലെ അഭിപ്രായമുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ ഒരു സംഭവത്തെപ്പറ്റി തുറന്ന കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്റെ അന്വേഷണവും അതിന്മേലുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടും ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും അതുപോലെതന്നെ പൂർണ്ണമായി വിശ്വസിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): May I ask Mr. Kumara Pillai what else Mr. Van Ross could do in a case like this? He went to the spot, took evidence and then he came to the conclusion that the allegations made were unfounded. He took statements from several witnesses. I should like to know what else he could do in a case like this.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): If that is all that the Government can do, then I think nothing can be done in any case at all which may arise.

PRESIDENT: Government can only do what is reasonable.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): This statement was made by Mr. Khadir Pillai even before he had made a statement in this Council.

ചീഫ്സിക്രട്ടറി മിസ്റ്റർ കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള പറയുന്നമാതിരിയുള്ള ന്യായമാണ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറു സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്സെർവീസിലെ അഴിമതികൾ കുറഞ്ഞുവരുവാൻ ഒരിക്കലും സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ഞാൻതന്നെ ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ചു പരസ്യമായി ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിവരുന്നതായി പറഞ്ഞു എന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ. പിന്നീട് വല്ല പ്രേരണാശക്തികളാലും ഞാൻ അതിൽനിന്നു വ്യതിചലിക്കുന്നതായാൽ എൻെറ ആ പ്രവൃത്തിയെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്ന് ഒരിക്കലും ബഹുമാനിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽതന്നെ ഒന്നാം തീയതിമുതൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പിൻെറ വില കൂട്ടി എന്നും ആ ഉത്തരവു ൩-ാം തീയതിയേ അവിടെ കിട്ടിയുള്ളു എന്നും അതിനാൽ ഒന്നും രണ്ടും തീയതികളിൽ വിലകുറച്ചു വിററിട്ടുള്ളതിനെ ശരിയാക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി കച്ചവടക്കാരോടു പാക്കിന് ഓരോ രൂപാവീതം കൂടുതൽ വാങ്ങുകയും ആ തുകയെ ഖജനാവിൽ ഒടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഉള്ള സമാധാനങ്ങളാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിൻെറ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നത്. ഈ സമാധാനങ്ങളെ വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ കാരണങ്ങൾ കാണുന്നില്ല. പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പു വില്ക്കുന്നതിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പററി മിസ്റ്റർ ഖാദർപിള്ള ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനേയും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരേയും അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തീയതി ഫാറസ്റ്റ് കമ്മററിയിലെ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥസാമാജികന്മാരോട് ആലുവായിൽവച്ചു മിസ്റ്റർ ഖാദർപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള തീയതി, ഉപ്പുവില കൂട്ടീട്ടുള്ള തീയതി, ഈ വിവരങ്ങളും അതോടുകൂടി ഒന്നും രണ്ടും തീയതികളിൽ വിററിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പുചാക്ക് എത്രയെന്നും അതിലേക്കു കച്ചവടക്കാരോട് ഈടാക്കീട്ടുള്ള തുക എന്താണെന്നും എപ്പോൾ എത്ര രൂപാ ഖജനാവിൽ ഒടുക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഉള്ള വിവരങ്ങൾ നിശ്ചയംവരുത്തിയതിൽപിന്നീട് മാത്രമേ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിൻെറ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ

[President.]

വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളു. പബ്ലിക്ക സർവ്വീസിലുള്ള ഇത്തരം അഴിമതികളെപ്പററിയുള്ള പ്രസ്താവനകളിൽ വാസ്തവങ്ങളെ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ ഗവർമെൻറു നിഷ്കൃഷ്ടമായ നടപടികൾ നടത്താതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം പബ്ലിക്ക സർവീസിൽ കൈക്കൂലികൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുവാനേ തരമുള്ളു. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവർമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നേരിട്ട് അന്വേഷണം നടത്തണമെന്നുതന്നെയാണ് എനിക്കു അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്.

PRESIDENT: What was the statement made by Mr. Daniel?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): It was this: "When we were at Alwaye recently this grievance was brought before us as well."

PRESIDENT: Was that statement made on the same occasion?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Yes; that is a very serious matter.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, this might have arisen from a misconstruction on the part of the merchants. The depôt officer might have been asked to levy a duty at the enhanced rate at a certain date, and the order might have reached only one or two days later.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): May I put him a question?

PRESIDENT: Certainly, you may.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇതേ സംഗതി മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ആലുവായിൽ ഫോറസ്റ്റു കമ്മിററിക്കായി ഞങ്ങൾ എത്തിയിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ മുമ്പിൽവച്ചു പറഞ്ഞു. ആ വിവരം മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരേയും അറിയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനുശേഷം മിസ്റ്റർ ഡാനിയൽ നിയമസഭയിൽവച്ചു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിനെപ്പററി എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി?

PRESIDENT: What are the dates of the two?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): The date of the Forest Committee can be had from the Conservator of Forests, and the other date from the Excise Commissioner.

PRESIDENT: I daresay the Government will conduct further enquiries.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I think it is highly necessary. The statement was made publicly.

PRESIDENT: An enquiry was made on the statement made by Mr. Daniel and Mr. Khadir Pillai on that occasion. If further statements are made, further enquiries will be made.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): On the strength of the information received from Alwaye I think further enquiry is necessary.

PRESIDENT: But that was not brought to the notice of the Government before.

Do you press this motion, Mr. Kumara Pillai?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I only wanted to bring this matter to the notice of the Government. I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 63.

The following motion was not made:

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

63. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 52,400 for salt business by Rs. 100.

Motion 64.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to move the following motion:

64. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 99,690 under salt by Rs. 100.

Sir, this motion as stated in the notice given by me, is intended to discuss the question of the separation of the Salt Department from the control of the Excise Commissioner and make it a separate department. I may say at once that my proposal will not entail extra expenditure. Mr. Kumara Pillai has made my task easy by dealing with a part of my motion. I had stated in the course of my speech in the general discussion of the Budget that the statement showing the quantity of salt manufactured in the South Travancore factories during the last ten years, 1089 to 1098, in reply to my interpellation, told its own tale. It is a little bit of a revelation those who run can read. The old factory at Tamarakulam which was manufacturing 1,01,192 maunds in 1089, manufactured only 34,720 maunds in 1097 and 66,522 maunds in 1098. Puttalam which manufactured 1,30,113 maunds in 1089, manufactured only 48,320 maunds in 1098. Colachel which manufactured 36,996 maunds in 1089, manufactured nothing in 1096 and 40½ maunds in 1097 and 2,086¾ maunds in 1098. Rajakkamangalam which manufactured 95,400 maunds in 1089, manufactured only 1,093 maunds in 1096, 11,676 maunds in 1097, and 28,466 maunds in 1098. The total salt manufactured in 1089, when there were only 7 factories, was 5,39,521 maunds, and when the number of factories was increased to 14, it was only 4,24,155 maunds in 1097 and 5,64,498 maunds in 1098. As seen in the statement, the area under salt cultivation in 1089 was 950·19 acres against 1,211·27 acres in 1098; and while the expenditure under salaries and contingencies for 1089 was Rs. 29,682, it came up to Rs. 47,537 in 1098. I looked back into the report of the Excise administration for 1084 and found that, while the area under cultivation was only 282·73 acres, the total out-turn was 45,836 maunds. The out-turn per acre has also fallen during the last few years. In passing,

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

it may be stated that there seems to be some serious mistake in regard to the area under cultivation in the statement given to this House, as I find from the administration report of 1098 that the area actually worked as pans is 427·81 and not 1211·27 as given in the statement. It will be seen from the above that, while the expenditure has been almost doubled during the last ten years and the area of cultivation also largely increased, the out-turn has been more or less the same it was fifteen or even twenty years back and the quality of the salt manufactured has also grealy deteriorated. I do not want to go into the several causes that have contributed to the standstill condition of salt manufacture in South Travancore, in spite of increased expenditure and larger area under cultivation. All that I have to say is that these unhappy results have been brought about by the narrow and ungenerous policy pursued by the Department, coupled with a great deal of bungling on the part of those who were and are in charge of it. The old factory at Tamarakulam would have ceased to exist, but for the timely help given to the licensees during the late administration in the way of enhanced *kudivila* recommended by me when I was Acting Excise commissioner. It is useless to go through the chapter of mistakes committed in the Department, year after year, during the last fifteen years or so. Government monopoly in the sale of salt was bad enough; but matters came to a climax when that monopoly was handed over to a single individual for four years together, to compensate, it is said, for some loss supposed to have been sustained by him and prevent his resorting to legal proceedings against the Government. Of course the taxpayers' interest is a minor consideration in all these transactions. The statements made by Messrs. Mammen Mappillai and Khadir Pillai before this House last year about the high prices charged for salt in North Travancore are fresh in our memory. This is the Excise system towards which we are supposed to be working with a vengeance. Something must be done at once to improve matters or even the little we have may vanish after a few years. The multifarious duties devolving on the Excise Commissioner do not allow him to pay the attention that is required for putting the salt branch of the Excise Department on a sound footing and to increase the output of the several factories. We now get only half the quantity of salt required for consumption in the State from our own factories. It is quite possible, with better supervision, and correct knowledge of salt manufacture, that the whole quantity required for the State can be obtained from Travancore itself. Unlike the British Excise Department, the Department here has to look after the tobacco and land and sea customs revenue as well, besides the collection of abkari revenue, about which I shall have to say a few words later on. A great deal has to be done to improve our customs revenue which ultimately with the tobacco revenue will be our mainstay. Our object ought to be not only to make our country self-contained in its salt supply, but also to manufacture salt of the best quality and to sell it to the people at the lowest rate possible. At present

we have to accept whatever kind of salt is imported here from outside. The answers that we got from the Excise Commissioner when the manufacture of salt was discussed in this Council, would show what a hazy idea he has of salt manufacture and what importance he places on this all-important matter. My proposal is that an officer, preferably one from the Huzur Secretariat, should be deputed to thoroughly study the conditions of salt manufacture in our own factories and then be sent to some of the important factories in Southern India and even Bombay to fully acquaint himself with the manufacture of salt according to the latest methods obtaining there, and introduce the same in Travancore. A young officer of some status with plenty of energy, enthusiasm, imagination and initiative should be chosen for this important work. Salt is used by the king down to the peasant, and I need not say how very necessary it is that it should be pure and as cheap as possible. Our agricultural development also depends on a plentiful supply of this article. No other Indian State is so fortunately situated as ours as regards the facilities for salt manufacture. It will, therefore, be almost a crime if we do not use to the very best the advantages Nature has afforded us. I offer these suggestions for the serious consideration of the members of this Council and of Government.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The first charge levelled against the Excise Department is the small output of salt in the Tamarakulam factory. This may be answered, I think, in a sentence or two.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I cannot hear.

PRESIDENT: He cannot hear you and so you must repeat what you have said.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): One of the points urged by my friend Mr. Hoogewerf against the Excise Department is the small output of salt in the Tamarakulam Factory. I think this may be answered in a sentence or two. The manufacture of salt depends mainly upon two conditions.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know from the acting Excise Commissioner whether Mr. Hoogewerf complained of the smallness of the output or the decline of the output?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That may be taken as decline.

The manufacture of salt depends mainly upon two conditions. One is fair weather, that is, continued hot weather, and secondly —

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that during the last twenty years there has been bad weather in the salt factories?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that. The decline refers to the last fifteen years after the opening of the Kodayar Project. Ever after the Kodayar Project, the Manakkudi Lake has become a basin of fresh water. By means of fresh water

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

it is impossible to manufacture good salt or to intensify the productivity. It is a common fact well known to all people who have any connection with salt factories.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Then why did the Department multiply the number of factories?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The small productivity may be increased by adding to the number of factories.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has it not reduced the density of the water in the reservoir?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Now we find that there is only fresh water even during the hot weather.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is not that the result of narrowing the channel and multiplying the number of factories?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Not so much that. It is mostly due to the Kodayar Project. It has been extended to every corner of Nanjanad and a large surplus of water is collected in the Manakkudi Lake, and therefore there is no room whatever for getting dense brine. The department is now proposing to find out some way of getting dense brine, and if that scheme proves successful, the difficulty will be got over.

Again, for the last two or three years we had adverse weather conditions. Last year there was the cyclone which washed away a greater part of the salt. This year also we had a narrow escape. In 1097 also we had premature and untimely rains and therefore our output was very small. Tuticorin is a place where there is continued hot weather, but in Tamarakulam we have only two broken periods. At Tuticorin they have got nine months of unbroken period. But at Tamarakulam the broken periods may extend each at the most to five months. But for the last three years we had not been getting the advantage of even these five months. We are having only three months' period as can be borne testimony to by my friend Mr. Karayalar. So, the fault of smaller output is not so much due to the Excise Department as to the bad weather conditions and the want of density of the brine water.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know from Mr. Govinda Pillai whether the Public Works Department has carried out all the works required for the supply of good brine to the several factories?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): They have done something in Tamarakulam where they have spent something like Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000. I think a little more work is to be done and when this is done, I am sure, the factory will in a way be restored to its original condition. Similarly, some work

is being done at Rajakkamangalam and Colachel. But these works are not completed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How long is it since these works were commenced?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Two years.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How long is it since the supply channel from the sea to the Rajakkamangalam *allom* was constructed? Was it not about 20 years ago that the P. W. D. began this work?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have no knowledge of the work done by the Public Works Department twenty years ago. My experience extends only to two years.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the proper brine supply to the Colachel factory?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): For the last two years the Department was working at it. Three-fourths of the work has been done and only one-fourth still remains unfinished. and when this is also done, I hope that dense brine may be obtained and the present Colachel factory may be restored to its original condition.

Sir, one more point. I have already reported to the House that the success of the manufacture of salt depends upon hot weather. It will be worth while stating here that the Variyur factory is the one which gets the least amount of rainfall. The rainfall at Variyur varies from 20 to 25 inches a year. At Tamarakulam it ranges between 30 and 40 inches a year, while at Rajakkamangalam between 40 and 50 inches and at Colachel between 50 and 60 inches a year. If we go towards North Travancore there will be greater rainfall and there fore it will be more unsuited for the manufacture of salt. So we can confine our attention only to South Travancore where the rainfall is far less than what it is in North Travancore.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether it is a fact that there has been a steady decline in the manufacture of salt during the past fifteen years?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The Kodayar Project has worsted our efforts. We are trying to get over the difficulty and if the works are completed we may be able to get at the original figures.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): കോതയാർപ്രൊജക്ടിലെ വെള്ളം എത്രകൊല്ലമായി ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുവരുന്നു.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): പത്തോ പന്ത്രണ്ടോ കൊല്ലംവരും.

PRESIDENT: Irrigation did not extend so far at the beginning of the project.

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) Has any investigation been carried out as yet to know whether dense brine can be got or not?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): We have made proposals.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Has any investigation been actually carried out?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No.

PRESIDENT: It means a large outlay.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It will cost about two or three lakhs of rupees. That is from a layman's point of view.

Sir, as regards experts, as far as I know there are no good experts anywhere in Travancore or South India. What we may call at present an expert is a man who might have gone and visited certain factories in South India and who might have collected knowledge of the working system. But the analysis of salt with a view to find out the deleterious elements for the development and intensification of productivity is not within the capacity of the so-called expert whom we can find anywhere in Travancore or South India.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Is there anybody in the salt factory to ascertain the purity of the salt?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I shall reply the member in a moment. I had an Inspector. While he was in charge of a factory he told me that he could analyse the salt. After some time a College Professor visited the Salt Factory. I asked him why he came there. Then that same Professor told me that he had come there at the invitation of the Inspector who wanted some information. That is how he did his work. Even recently, I have known of an officer in charge of a factory getting the assistance of a certain chemistry student whovisited the factory. He was not able to give any information to the officer at his station. As regards the working of the salt factory we have not got a very large laboratory and we have only a few instruments there. I asked the chemistry student whether he could find out what instruments were wanting. He was not in a position to give an answer. That is the case with the present men.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was there not a small laboratory with chemical instruments for testing salt about fifteen years ago?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I know there was a small laboratory which was not even worth the name.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What has become of it?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There are only a few instruments and we have to supplement them by the

purchase of a large number of instruments at a great cost and even if we purchase them it is questionable whether our local men will be able to make use of them.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is the analysis for the purpose of detecting impurities existing in the salt?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I think college students will be able to do it.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have tried chemistry graduates and they were not able to do it.

PRESIDENT: I think the analysis is being done. The salt is being examined by the Chemical Examiner.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): From my experience I think that what we call experts are only those people who have experience in the work of the manufacture of salt and if we ask them to do it they can do it without much difficulty, as my friend Mr. Karayalar might be able to bear testimony to my statement. The only man who could be called an expert was Dr. Rattan and he has written a treatise that has become the guide for all the people in the salt factories to follow in regard to the manufacture of salt and that is very freely used by all the men there.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, after hearing Mr. Govinda Pillai's explanation I have been more or less convinced of the need for separating the Salt Department from the Excise and Customs Department. He has been telling us that the analysis of salt with a view to finding out its quality and its impurities is a very difficult matter, that the Department contains no expert who is able to do it, that the Department therefore is not paying any attention to the analysis of salt and that, really speaking, there ought to be some experts who will be able to do it. Now, if this is so, Sir, it is absolutely necessary that special attention should be paid to the manufacture of salt with a view to finding out its impurities and its quality and special attention can be paid only by the establishment of a separate department with experts who know the manufacture of salt and who could conduct the analysis of salt successfully.

PRESIDENT: I think in answer to an interpellation it has already been stated that the salt is being analysed by the Chemical Examiner appointed by the Government.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Mr. Govinda Pillai said nothing of the kind.

PRESIDENT: He only said that no analysis had been done in the factories.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I think it is necessary that there ought to be a separate factory or laboratory attached to the salt department, and there also ought to be a chemist who will be able to examine from time to time the quality of the salt produced in the factories.

[Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.]

There is also another matter which has been brought to light from the speech of the Ag. Excise Commissioner that, since the Kodayar Project, we have not been able to manufacture good salt to the same extent as we have been doing before the project was introduced, for the reason that the water in the Manakkudi lake has become more or less fresh water and therefore the salt density of the water has been considerably reduced; and the acting Excise Commissioner says that it is necessary to investigate a scheme as to whether it is not possible to increase the density of this lake by proper experiments. Now, though the Kodayar Project has been there for the last sixteen or seventeen years, he has told us that no investigation has been made. That is another argument I should think for establishing a separate Department! Of course if the cost is great it is worth while meeting the cost if it would be a success, because we can then manufacture sufficient salt to meet the requirements of the country. It will be a great benefit to the country indeed. Therefore, the fact that they have not been making any investigation in regard to that must also be due, I think, to the fact that it forms only one part of a great department and the department having to distribute its attention over all its branches is not able to concentrate any upon this particular duty. Now, Sir, there can be no doubt that salt is a very important matter and if we can manufacture salt sufficient to meet the requirements of the country it will be a great thing indeed. As it is, the price of salt in Travancore depends upon the price fixed by the British Government; the British Government fixes the price of salt according to the exigencies of their finance, and therefore, the price of salt in Travancore will depend on the financial condition of British India and not on the financial or other conditions in Travancore. If, on the other hand, we are able to manufacture the whole of the salt required for consumption in this country or at least a large portion of it, it will be of great advantage to the State as well as to the people of Travancore. For these reasons, I think that even if it should involve any additional cost it is worth meeting that cost and it is worth while having a separate Department which would bestow its entire attention upon the Department and it should not be permitted to form part of a whole department under an officer who has to scatter his attention upon various items of the revenue of the State. For these reasons I have great pleasure in supporting the motion of Mr. Hoogewerf.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Shencottah*): My object in speaking on this motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that sufficient attention is not being paid by the Excise Department to the ways and means of increasing the manufacture of home salt in the monopoly factories. Of course they pay their attention to effect improvements in old *alloms* like Rajakkamangalam, Colachel and Tamarakulam old factories, leaving the owners of the monopoly factories to take care of themselves. Whatever be the help that might be rendered to the old factories, I am sure the output of salt could

never be increased unless the system is changed and the licensees are encouraged. Rajakkamangalam and Colachel factories shall never thrive as it is not possible to prevent fresh water percolation.

The out-turn of salt depends essentially upon the conditions of weather and upon the supply of brine. We have no control over the conditions of weather, and unlike the salt factories in the Tinnevelly District, the factories in Travancore are exposed to both monsoons and so it is of paramount importance to secure good brine in order to ensure sufficient quantity of salt for State consumption.

Even in the Tamarakulam salt factories where we have the best salt lake in Travancore the manufacturers have the greatest anxiety to get rid of the rain water collected within the factory, and I may inform the House that the coming *Purattasi Pani* may be a failure as the fresh water within the factories may not dry at all before the end of Purattasi 1100, and therefore the idea of some of my friends like Mr. Hoogewerf on this side of the House to construct factories may once for all be given up.

Now coming to the supply of brine, I have no hesitation in asserting that it is possible to secure an adequate supply of brine water for the salt factories in Tamarakulam without any great outlay. I have made several suggestions in the course of my representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly Session of 1097 which aimed at securing a good supply of brine and improving the manufacture of salt. No serious attention has so far been paid to those suggestions. If the present state of lack of interest continues for another three years to come, I respectfully submit to Government and also draw the attention of this House that the salt factories in Travancore will cease to exist and Travancoreans will be forced to beg the British Government for ever for the supply of the most vital necessity of life. As it is not too late to mend matters, I would like to suggest for the consideration of Government the best way of supplying brine to the factories. Now the salt manufacturers at Tamarakulam draw their supply of brine from the Manakkudi lake which for the best part of the year contains water of practically no saline density, as the Pazhayar river, after the Pechiparai dam, has been discharging into the lake a good quantity of fresh water almost all the year round.

I beg to suggest two ways of bettering the condition of brine supply. One is, the Pazhayar river water must be allowed an exit into the sea during the dry weather, say Makaram down to the commencement of the monsoon, by opening a diversion channel at or near the Mission anicut. If this is done the water in the Manakkudi lake during the hot weather will become thicker and will serve as an outer reservoir to the factories. My second suggestion is that arrangements may be made to pump out sea water and supply the same to the lake and the inner reservoirs of the several factories and a small cess may be levied from the manufacturers to cover interest on the outlay. If my suggestions are carried out, Travancore need not go in for foreign salt and will be in a position to supply even the Cochin State.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

With regard to the separation of the Salt Department from the Excise Department, I do not agree with Mr. Hoogewerf. It is not necessary to have a separate Department to control the salt factories in South Travancore. What is necessary is that more attention should be paid and some officer may be directed to see that the works required to increase the manufacture of salt are carried out at an early date. As a matter of fact, the salt, that is being manufactured in our factory is good. Even the best salt produced in Tinnevelly and Tuticorin is not as good as the salt manufactured in South Travancore.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I also support the motion of Mr. Hoogewerf. Salt manufacture is an important industry. In view of what is being done by the Excise Department towards this industry I submit that it is time to consider some other agency to be engaged for the development of the industry. As for the statement of Mr. Govinda Pillai that it is impossible to analyse the salt produced, I may say that I have to take the statement with a grain of salt. With the little chemistry I have studied some years ago, I assure the House that, after all, it is not a difficult problem to analyse this inorganic salt, as may be seen by the daily experiments performed in the laboratary of the B. A. Class. In view of the languishing interest taken by the Excise Department in tackling the problem, I would even make a suggestion that the whole production of salt may be placed under the Director of Agriculture under whom there are a number of good chemists and who ought to be expected to be to a considerable extent interested in the production of salt. An organisation entirely exclusive and independent may not look very attractive from the standpoint of finance. So I would make a suggestion to take away this department from the Excise Commissioner and place it under the Director of Agriculture, if necessary with a few slight additions to his budget allowance, and try it as a practical problem.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I also support the motion of Mr. Hoogewerf with this qualification. I agree with him in regard to his observation regarding the further encouragement that we have to give towards the development of home salt. But I am sorry to come to the conclusion that I cannot agree with him in thinking that any good impetus will be given by a mere separation of the two Departments. With a more strict supervision and control than what is now being exercised by the Excise Department the object could be achieved.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I want to bring it directly under the Government

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : It means another additional payment to a person with the status of the head of a Department. I am certainly opposed to any further addition to that *cadre* of officers, and I certainly think that even the present Assistant Commissioners' salary *i. e.*, Rs. 325-400—

PRESIDENT: The salary depends upon the grade.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): At any rate we find here—

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): But the total will be found correct.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): This is the provision made.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Any Officer in that *cadre* may be posted there.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): There are Assistant Commissioners drawing a salary of Rs. 175-400, and any one of these officers might be put in charge of the factory. I should also think that one Senior Assistant Commissioner who was for a long time in charge of the salt factories should be put in there. I do not see any particular virtue in grading another appointment as head of the department in charge of the factory. What is required, it appears to me, is to see that the person, *i. e.*, the Assistant Commissioner who is put in charge of the salt factory, is a competent man able to understand the needs of the country and also that he has sufficient knowledge in regard to the measures to be adopted for the development of the factories. If such a person is put in, there can be no reasonable objection to the salt factories continuing under the control or supervision of one particular head of the department, *viz.*, the Excise Department. As a matter of fact a considerable saving also may be effected. At present the reason that the Excise Commissioner or the person in charge of the Excise Department does not devote adequate attention to this particular branch of the Department is not an argument for separation. It appears to me that this House has only to draw the attention of the Government and the present head of the Department to devote greater attention to this branch of the Department. Further, it has never been said on the other side that the Excise Commissioner is not in a position to cope with the work. No such complaint has come from him also. It has been suggested that competent men—or rather experts in the true sense—are wanted in this particular branch of the Department. If so, further allotments may be made to see that adequate provision is made for the purpose of doing anything that will serve towards the promotion of the salt industry and we do not grudge any expenditure being incurred on that account if on account of the expenditure the result will be further promotion of the industry. We do not underrate the importance of the industry, but what I do certainly object to is the creation of another Department and thereby incurring additional expenditure which may well be devoted towards the promotion of salt industry by providing a good laboratory and by getting down an expert with sufficient knowledge to develop and further the industry. So, I do not see why the Department should be separated, but I would again emphasise the paramount importance or rather the *necessity* to further take up the question in right earnest and

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

see that the industry is promoted much better than it is now and the Department placed on a more efficient basis.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I shall first answer Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai with regard to the objection raised by him against the separation of the Department. I have a bitter experience of playing the second fiddle. I took a great deal of interest in salt manufacture when I was in South Travancore, and though my superior, when he was handing over charge of the Department to me, warned me not to touch the salt papers, *i. e.*, the papers connected with the *kudivila*, which he made me understand was forbidden ground to tread on, I was obliged, under instructions from the Government, to study the whole question first-hand as the Popular Assembly was about to be in session. I made a report recommending the enhancement of *kudivila* which brought me into serious trouble later on. What I want to say is that the second fiddle business can never succeed. What is the use of having an expert, a man who has a thorough knowledge of salt manufacture, when the head of the department does not understand the A B C of it? He will always be putting a spoke in the wheel, and this I speak from experience. That is why I maintain that, for expeditious working and for success, independence and direct responsibility are absolutely necessary for the officer. I say therefore that some smart officer, if possible from the Secretariat, without old-world ideas and not travelling in narrow grooves, but with a free and open mind, should be sent to the British factories to get a thorough knowledge of the manufacture of salt. I do not propose to add one pie to the expenditure already incurred. It is quite possible to appoint this officer by taking away one or two Inspectors from the factories and add their pay to that of this officer, if that is necessary, in effecting this separation.

I must next thank Mr. Govinda Pillai and Mr. Karayalar for the strong case they have made in my favour for the separation. Mr. Govinda Pillai has not touched upon the most important point that I have—

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am coming—

PRESIDENT: You may mention it in your reply.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The Excise Commissioner who has multifarious duties cannot find time to attend to this all-important matter. His duties have been more or less taken up in appointing, disappointing and transferring his subordinates. The matter should be seriously considered.

With regard to the customs duty I have said during the budget discussion that it is gradually going down. So a full-time officer with a thorough knowledge of salt manufacture is necessary for that important work. Mr. Govinda Pillai tried to make us understand that it was useless to have chemistry graduates because they understand nothing and nothing can come out of them. I think it is an insult to the number of chemistry graduates that are being

turned out year after year from the college if it is said that they cannot analyse this common article of food. Well, if this is so, I do not know what use there is of their knowledge of chemistry. Mr. Stephenson will be able to enlighten Mr. Govinda Pillai on this point. It is a very gloomy picture that Mr. Govinda Pillai has been drawing. He spoke of the supply of brine at the Tamarakulam reservoir and Tamarakulam factories and said that the density of brine had gone down from two and three degrees to one and to nothing. That makes the situation all the more serious.

Mr. Karayalar said that no notice was taken of the several valuable suggestions made by him. That is another case in point in my favour. This argument brought forward by him emphasises the fact that this question ought to be tackled with a serious and open mind. Besides Mr. Karayalar I know several others who have a knowledge of South Travancore have been from time to time making suggestions. I myself made very imortant recommendations in regard to the improvement of salt manufacture in South Travancore. I went to the spot, learnt all the conditions from the licensees and subordinates including Mr. Nilakantan and wrote a long report to Government. But probably it is all buried in the archives of the Huzur or the Excise Commissioner's office! So Mr. Karayalar deserves my warmest thanks for the special pleading that he has made on my behalf in regard to this matter.

The Public Works Department is said to have been doing a number of works during the last fifteen years. I know when I was in charge the P. W. D. was asked to improve the brine channel leading to the Rajakkamangalam *allom*. Evidently it is the same complaint of inaction that is being made to-day. Unless and until there is a proper supply of brine from the sea and the salt beds are properly cleaned and tamped and the reservoirs are supplied with brine and the bars cut open at seasonable times to allow sea water to come in, the manufacture of home salt is very gloomy and may eventually vanish.

My quondam colleague has helped me a great deal for old time's sake in supporting my motion and making my case stronger than before. I therefore strongly recommend that this all-important question should receive the most serious attention of this House. I thank Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai and a little bit Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai also (*laughter*) for advocating this very important cause. I do not—

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir. (*Laughter.*) As the time is up, I am sorry I am not able to say anything more on this question.

PRESIDENT: Have you anything to say, Mr. Govinda Pillai?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The remark that I made regarding chemistry students is not that there are no chemistry students anywhere in Travancore but that there are no chemistry students available for the purpose in Tamarakulam.

[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the subordinates use the porcelain cups there for drinking coffee? (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There are no cups there now. Probably that is the tale of olden days.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Any cup left now?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No cup whatever left now. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Order, please.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I meant no insult whatever to the chemistry students. What I meant to say was that there were no chemistry students available there.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is not Mr. Nilakantan a chemistry student?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): He has been there for eleven months. While I was in charge I was able to show an output of five or six lakhs of maunds of salt. This year's output is only three lakhs. It is not the fault of the man who is in charge of the factory. It is due to the weather conditions. My friend Mr. Karayalar will bear testimony to this fact. It does not depend upon the expert but upon the weather conditions.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether what Mr. Karayalar said is a fact, *viz.*, that he made various suggestions for the improvement of the salt industry in that locality, but that no attention was paid by the Department?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Mr. Karayalar does not know that there is correspondence between the Excise Department and the Secretariat. A scheme has been taken in hand and it will be investigated if only the Government will be pleased to do so.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was the suggestion of Mr. Karayalar taken up by the Excise Department and the scheme submitted to Government?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Not as a personal proposal. The question of improving the salt factories has been taken up and proposals have been submitted to Government.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How long is it since the proposal was submitted?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Probably more or less a month.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Since it was submitted?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes, and even earlier, I believe, the matter has been brought under correspondence. Now it has taken an active turn.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How far earlier?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): One or two years ago, while I was in charge of the factories, I moved the question, and in response to it I know the P. W. D. works have been started. The evil is not so much from the Kodayar Project as the percolation from the Kodayar Project. The factories are situated on the side of a river. In Tamarakulam the Pazhayar separates two sets of factories and fresh water from the Pazhayar percolates into the factories. So also at Rajakkamangalam there is the Pannivaikkal, a big brook. The factory is situated on the side of the brook, and the fresh water from the brook percolates into the factory. Similarly the fresh water from the *panduruvaikal* percolates into the Colachel factory. What the P. W. D. has done is to construct ring channels so as to catch fresh water so that it might not percolate into the factories. That work has been done in Colachel and Rajakkamangalam and in the old *allom* at Tamarakulam. Matters have been very much improved now. But much more work remains to be done. When that is done, most probably, we may get a better output of salt.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether any investigation has been conducted in regard to the work proposed by Mr. Karayalar and in regard to the scheme?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There were two or three schemes. One was the diversion of the Pazhayar. That question was referred to the Government, and then it was referred to the P. W. D. who declared that it was not feasible. So it was given up.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Any other investigation made?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes; there was a proposal to cut a channel from the Manakkudi lake alongside the eastern factories at Tamarakulam. I do not know whether that has been investigated. While I was there I made the proposal and it might have reached the Excise Commissioner's office. Whether anything has been done in response to that recommendation is a matter not known to me now. One important point I have to refer the House to is this. The suggestion for the creation of a separate department has been brought to the notice of the Government more than once in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, and it has been discussed more than once there. The question was minutely enquired into, and orders were passed to the effect that it is not quite feasible unless a large amount of money is spent. My reason for opposing the motion is as follows:—

The creation of a separate Salt Department does not appear to be necessary. If the head of the Salt Department is made independent of

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

the Excise Commissioner, he will require a separate staff for the maintenance of salt revenue in the taluks where there is scope for the smuggling of salt from outside. There is a large frontier line about Agastisvaram, Tovala, Shencottah and the Cochin frontier where so many new stations will have to be constructed and a large establishment created for guarding the stations. Otherwise, when there is a fall—

PRESIDENT: Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai wants to ask a question.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Can the salt manufacture be separated from the Excise, other things still remaining with the Excise Department?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The salt depôts and salt manufacture are intimately connected, and the one cannot be separated from the other without injury to the other. The salt manufactured at Tamarakulam will have to be transported to Quilon and other places.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many cases of salt smuggling from Travancore to Tinnevelly side or from Tinnevelly to Travancore side have taken place during the last twenty years?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): If the member will kindly give notice of the question, I shall be able to answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): During the last five years?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible to remember all these figures.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Roughly? (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No, it is not possible.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has there been a single case during the last five years?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Not merely a single case. I know that, as a matter of fact, while I was in the Arukutty and Alwaye Circles, there were cases of smuggling of salt five or six years ago.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When they are doing other work what harm is there?

PRESIDENT: That he has already explained.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Otherwise when there is a fall in the salt revenue in a frontier taluk the Salt Department will attribute it to the poor preventive work, while the Excise Department, which may not be expected to be so earnest in preventing smuggling as at present, will disown any such responsibility. There will thus be constant friction between the Excise and Salt Departments. Again, there is another important factor. There are some

combined institutions of salt and customs such as in Trivandrum, Quilon, Shencottah and Munambam, and when the two are separated, separate staff is necessary for each. The creation of a separate Department will thus entail a heavy additional expenditure which, I do not think, in the present financial condition of the State, the Government can afford to bear. Till recently, even in British India, the Salt and Excise Departments were under the same administrative head, and the two were separated only a short time ago. But the conditions in British India are quite different from those obtaining in Travancore. In the former there are no facilities for the smuggling of salt from outside.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have they to look after the sea and land customs in British India?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I shall soon finish and come over to that point.

In view of the heavy expenditure involved in the proposal and the complications that are sure to arise therefrom in preventing the smuggling of salt from outside, I submit that the proposal to separate the Salt from the Excise Department is quite ill-advised.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Would it not be possible to transfer a portion of the staff from the Excise Department to the other department?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The present staff is fully engaged in the prevention of smuggling of tobacco and customs revenue. There is no separate staff for the prevention of smuggling of salt.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): So, no care is being taken of the salt manufacture?

PRESIDENT: Not manufacture. He is talking of the smuggling and the control of the frontier.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If a big log of timber is being taken away through the chowkey without paying the dues, cannot the Excise Department stop it?

PRESIDENT: I do not know how the question is relevant. You mean the customs duty?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): All the dues they may have to pay.

PRESIDENT: Do you mean that the Forest Department is not realising the dues? How are the Excise people to know?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes; they have to produce the receipt issued from the Forest Department.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): After the abolition of the tariff duty on timber the Excise people do not care very much for the duty on timber. I know there was a multiplicity of correspondence between the Forest Department and the Excise Department. Finally there was a Government Order asking the Department not to permit the export of timber without permit from the Forest Department.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): It is not quite clear to me. I do not see why, if the Department is separated, the present staff which prevents smuggling at the frontier should not continue to do so.

PRESIDENT: They will be under two heads of departments. The control will be divided and efficiency would suffer.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Within the State it might be divided.

PRESIDENT: Then they will be under dual control as Mr. Govinda Pillai has been saying: that would lead to interdepartmental friction.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): As regards the keeping of a separate staff, the present Assistant Commissioner is as good as the head of a department. He has been given full powers to propose schemes for the development of the salt factories; whenever such schemes or proposals are made the Excise Commissioner repairs to the spot and examines the soundness of the scheme, and makes the necessary recommendations to carry out his views. Even if a separate officer is placed as the head of that Department I do not know whether he can do anything more.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): With reference to the alleged smuggling, I wish to know whether there is any difference in the duty on salt so far as Cochin or British India is concerned or whether there is any difference in the price in the adjoining States with regard to the price of salt?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): On the frontier side the British salt is sold at a price less than ours. Unless we have a staff in the frontier to prevent smuggling of the salt from the British side, the people will go and buy there. It is for that purpose that we have got a staff on the frontier. As regards the Cochin side the Bombay salt is sold there. We are also therefore compelled to get Bombay salt for the taluks of Alangad, Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha in order to prevent smuggling from Cochin side. If we send Tuticorin salt or Tinnevelly salt, the Bombay salt will be preferred by the people and it will get into the Travancore territory and impair our revenue. It is therefore that we are always stocking sufficient quantity of Bombay salt at the Munambam depôt, to keep out the Cochin salt.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I draw your attention, Sir, to the time-limit?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Govinda Pillai is replying to questions. When questions are put to him he is expected to answer them.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to withdraw the motion as I only wanted to bring this matter to the notice of the Council and the Government.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the Council accepts the withdrawal of the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 65 to 79.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

65. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 99,690 under Salt by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

66. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowances of officers by Rs. 750.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

67. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for purchase of instruments by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

68. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 5,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

69. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

70. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

71. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,800 for transport of opium and ganja by Rs. 600.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

72. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 39,950 under Commissioner by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

73. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 39,950 under Commissioner by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

74. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,170 for establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

75. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

76. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for rewards by Rs. 1,400.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

77. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for rewards by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

78. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,895 for Division Offices by Rs. 1,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

79. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 35,430 for Range Inspectors by Rs. 660.

Motion 80.

PRESIDENT: We are at motion No. 80. There are three identical motions to reduce the allotment for establishment under Excise. Yours is the first Mr. Hoogwerf. You may move the motion and the other gentlemen may speak on it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to make the following motion:—

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

80. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 14,630.

(The pay of the additional staff for introducing the independent shop system in North Travancore.)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In spite of a very strong case that was made against the creation and the retention of the Sub-Inspectors, it is a matter for extreme regret that this House has been sanctioning the grant for the last two years under this head. I need not say to the members of this House that they should not vote in favour of grants asked by heads of departments without giving due weight to the matter of wasteful expenditure of public funds. The reasons brought forward against the appointments of Sub-Inspectors by some of the leading members of this House are probably fresh in the minds of most of us. When the new arrangement was about to be made, I, personally and by letters, representented to the Dewan the utter folly of appointing this set of officers. He was kind enough to give me a patient hearing and promised me that, if I could convince Mr. Van Ross in his presence that these officers were not necessary, he would not sanction their appointment. I went to Mr. Van Ross's bungalow and informed him of my conversation with the Dewan. He courteously received me and asked me to state the defects in the proposed arrangement and my proposals in regard to the reorganisation. I explained the whole matter and told him that it was not any new proposal that I was making, but only requesting him to go back on the old arrangement of Divisions, Circles, Ranges and parties. He agreed with what I said, but subsequently altered his attitude and said that, as he had to administer the Department, his scheme must be sanctioned, and if it could not be, he was prepared to resign. When I knew his mentality I tried to bow out of an unpleasant situation. But when I was coming away, he assured me that, at the end of the year, he would do away with the Sub-Inspectors. The whole matter appeared to be a question of personal prestige which had to be maintained at the sacrifice of the tax-payer's money. The prophecy that was made that there would be a 'pull Baker pull Devil' tug between the Range Inspectors and the Sub-Inspectors has, more or less, come to pass in certain Ranges. It has greatly tended to divide responsibility and shirk work. The appointment was created because of the absolute ignorance of the spirit and letter of the excise administration and the Regulation and Rules guiding the same.

PRESIDENT: What has all this to do with the motion?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am coming to the subject of the motion.

The Sub-Inspector was appointed mostly with the object of making house-searches. It was forgotten at the time, both by the Excise Commissioner and the Government, that house-searches could only be conducted with a warrant except on very emergent cases. The Abkari

Regulation is one which mostly affects the lower classes, and the hard clause of the presumption of guilt is mitigated and safeguarded by the provision for obtaining a search-warrant.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the fact that strictly there are only five minutes more for the lapse of time for this demand?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When a case is detected it is being investigated by a superior officer, *viz.*, the quondam Circle Officer or, as he is known in British India, the Circle Inspector, and not by a Range Inspector as is being done now. The Regulation as it stands now empowers an abkari officer drawing Rs. 20 and above to conduct house-searches without a warrant, and the new appointment, even on that ground, is not at all necessary as a very large number of Petty Officers are drawing Rs. 20 and above. The statement given to the House last year will show that Petty Officers have been conducting house-searches. As I stated before, the Sub-Inspector is only an enlarged Petty Officer, as a very large percentage of the appointments has been made from the Petty Officers' grade. From the statements given to this House it is seen that this set of officers also is following the illegal practice of conducting a large number of house-searches *sans ceremonie* without warrants and Government are in a great way responsible for letting loose these low-paid officers to encroach upon the liberty of the people. The Administration Report of last year speaks for itself in regard to the work done by the officers of the Department. Most of the Assistant Commissioners in charge of Divisions are taken to task for the poor detection work both on their part and on the part of their staff. It is true that there has been increase in the number of cases in two divisions which have partly saved the situation; but it is not seen from the report who detected these cases. I know, as a matter of fact, most of the abkari cases come under illicit tapping and illicit possession of toddy by tappers. These cases can be detected not only by Petty Officers but by peons also, as tappers usually keep their toddy in an open place, mostly in tapping *topes*. The statement showing the amount of work done by Sub-Inspectors from the 1st Tulam, 1098, to the 1st Mithunam of the same year speaks for itself. It would be seen from it that several Sub-Inspectors have not detected a single case of illicit distillation, while many others have detected only one, two or three cases each. The quantity of tobacco seized went down from 9,000 and odd lbs. in 1097 to 3,000 and odd lbs. in 1098. The customs export revenue has also fallen by over one and a half lakhs. This year also there has been a large fall. I am informed that a big fall would have occurred under recovery of abkari rentals last year but for the fact that a large portion of the shop rentals, which should have been adjusted only at the close of the contract of this year, was adjusted last year and the majority of the shops was working without any security for a few months. Thus it is seen that the Sub-Inspectors have not justified their existence even on this score. The whole defect of the administration—

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf, may I request you to speak on the proposition?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*). I am just coming to it, Sir. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: You have only one minute more.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Most of the other speakers have exceeded the time-limit.

PRESIDENT: That may be, but I am not going to allow you more than one minute.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Unless I explain all the facts—

PRESIDENT: Facts may be mentioned briefly by summarising.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): A number of important Ranges are now placed under Sub-Inspectors. I have a great deal more to say on these points, but it is not possible to compress into a few minutes what has to be said in two or three hours. The proposal is only to bring Parur, Shertallai and Vaikam under the independent shop system. Now we have in every Range a sufficient number of Inspectors to deal with the whole question. I have been myself in charge of these taluks when I was Assistant Commissioner. I know exactly what the situation there is. There is absolutely no necessity at all for any further staff. If there is any necessity at all, two or three Inspectors from other places may be drafted to these taluks. As I was trying to explain, the whole difficulty is because of the fact that the Sub-Inspector has taken the place of the Inspector in important Ranges. Until the Inspectors go back to these Ranges and the Petty Officers and the peons are given proper places it is useless to appoint Sub-Inspectors. We will be continuing to travel in a vicious circle. I have a great deal more to say, but since you say, Sir, the time is up, I have to sit down.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Viluvankod*): കുന്നത്തുനാട്, പറവൂർ മുതലായ വടക്കൻ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ൧൧൦൦-ാമാണ്ടു ചിങ്ങമാസം മുതൽ Independent shop system ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു അതിലേക്കു നൂതനമായി കുറെ ആളുകളെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കായി പതിനാറായിരത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതിനെ അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നുള്ള മി. ഹൂഗെവർഫിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ സമയം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി വിസ്തരിച്ചു സംസാരിക്കാൻ നിർവ്വാഹമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഇതിൽ എനിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി പറവാനുള്ളത് മിസ്റ്റർ. വാൻറാസിന്റെ ഭരണകാലത്തു ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ അമിതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് നൂതന നിയമനങ്ങളാൽ വീണ്ടും അവയെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ്.

൧൦൯൨-ൽ എക്സൈസ് റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചിലവു ൧,൭൫,൨൯൩ രൂപായായിരുന്നതു ൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൧,൮൪,൫൧൦ രൂപായായി വൎദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു മൂന്നു വൎഷങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് ൯,൨൧൭ രൂപാ വൎദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ. വാൻറാസ് ൧൦൯൫-അവസാനത്തിൽ എക്സൈസ് ഭരണം കയ്യേൽക്കുകയും ൧൦൯൬-ൽ റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചിലവു ൨,൨൧,൪൯൮ രൂപായായി വൎദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു ഒരു വൎഷത്തെ ഭരണംകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചിലവിൽ ൩൬,൯൮൮ രൂപാ വൎദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വൎദ്ധനകൊണ്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെടാതെയാണ് ൧൧൦൦-ാമാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജററിൽ റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചിലവിനെ ൨,൩൫,൫൦൦ രൂപായായി വൎദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ കണക്കിൻപ്രകാരം മിസ്റ്റർ. വാൻറാസിൻെറ ഭരണത്തിൽ ൧൦൯൫-ൽ നിന്നും ൧൧൦൦-ാമാണ്ടിൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൫൦,൯൯൦ രൂപാ വൎദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഇങ്ങനെ വൎദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനു യോജിപ്പാംവിധം എക്സൈസു ഇനത്തിലെ വരവു വൎദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ വലുതായ ഇച്ഛാഭംഗത്തിനാണ് ഇടയുള്ളത്. ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൪൬,൯൨,൫൭൫ രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു ൧൦൯൯-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൪൩,൨൩,൯൦൦ രൂപായായി കുറയുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതായത് മൂന്നു വൎഷങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു ൩,൬൮,൪൧൪ രൂപാ വരവിൽ കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിലാണ് റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ വൎദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കായി വീണ്ടും കൂടുതൽ രൂപാ വേണമെന്നാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളത്. എക്സൈസ് ഇനത്തിലെ വരവു കുറഞ്ഞുവരുന്തോറും റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചിലവുകൾ വൎദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള നയം ഒരിക്കലും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ഇതിനും പുറമെ മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ Independent shop system ഏൎപ്പെടുത്തിയ കാരണത്തു നൂതനമായി ആളുകളെ നിയമിക്കയൊ അതിലേക്കായി ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ വൎദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയൊ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലാത്തസ്ഥിതിക്കു റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ അമിതമായി വൎദ്ധിച്ചു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ കാലത്ത് അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

വൈക്കം, ചേൎത്തല, കുന്നത്തുനാടു, പറവൂർ ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിലാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ Independent shop system നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താൻ നി

[Mr G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

ശ്രയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്താൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണം ൪൦൦-ൽ പരമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളെല്ലാം ചാരായഷാപ്പുകളുടേയും കറുപ്പ്, കഞ്ചാ ഈ ഷാപ്പുകളുടേയും അടുത്താണ് സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ഇപ്പോൾ അവിടെയുള്ള ചാരായം, കറുപ്പ്, കഞ്ചാവ് ഈ ഷാപ്പുകളുടെമേൽ പരിശോധനകൾക്കും അവയിൽനിന്നുമുള്ള പണപ്പിരിവുകൾക്കും ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെ ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ റേഞ്ചുഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ഒട്ടുവളരെ കീഴ് ജീവനക്കാരും ഉള്ളതാണ്. മററു താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിവരുന്നതുപോലെ ഇവിടേയും കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളുടെ മേൽവിചാരംകൂടി വഹിക്കാൻ ഇവർക്കു പ്രയാസമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽതന്നെ Farming system പ്രകാരം ഇപ്പോൾ ൪൦൦ കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളും അതിൽ ഓരോ ഷാപ്പുകളുടേയും അധീനതയിൽ രണ്ടും മൂന്നും സബ്ഷാപ്പുകളും ഉള്ളതുകളുടെ മേൽ പരിശോധനകൾക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ റേഞ്ചിലുള്ള ആളുകൾ മതിയാകുമെങ്കിൽ Independent shop system ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതിൽ പിന്നീട് അതിലേക്കു സാധിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതിനുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങൾ എന്താണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ നൂതനമായി കുറെ ജീവനക്കാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു ബഡ്ജററിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ള ൧൪,൬൩൦ രൂപ അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I also beg to support the motion. The independent shop system has been tried elsewhere and it has not been found necessary to appoint additional staff. Now very little has been made out in the way of necessity for granting additional staff in the case of the taluks where it is proposed to introduce the independent shop system. If, as a matter of fact, the present staff finds difficulty to cope with the situation, it is open to the Excise Department after sometime to come up for a supplementary grant. Now it may be that the present staff could manage with the work successfully even after the independent shop system is introduced in the taluks in question. Before trying with the existing staff, this House cannot be called upon to grant this particular amount.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*) : Sir, my friend Mr. Hoogewerf has brought into prominence the existence of Sub-Inspectors in the Department now. This has become a thorny problem for the Department to solve. I think I am able to place before the Council reasons for supporting—

PRESIDENT: That is not relevant to the motion before the House.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): We ant only the reasons for the entertainment of thadditional staff.

Mr. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That also, I will come to.

PRESIDENT: The question of Sub-Inspectors is not relevant to the motion before the House. You need speak only on the necessity for the additional staff.

Mr. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The staff proposed is intended to cope with the additional work consequent upon the introduction of the independent shop system in the Aryad *pakuthi* of the Ambalapuzha taluk and in the taluks of Shertallai, Vaikam, Kunnatnad and Parur.

In the first place, I have to point out that the existing staff in the Arukutty and Alwaye Divisions and in that portion of the Alleppey Division where the vend rent system now prevails cannot cope with the additional work consequent on the extension of the independent shop system to those tracts. In the reorganisation of the Department effected in 1098, the staff in the various divisions of the State was reduced to the lowest possible limit. The staff now sanctioned to the Arukutty and Alwaye Divisions represents the bare minimum number of men required for guarding the frontier and for performing the various duties needed for maintaining the customs and tobacco revenue of the State. They have to perform night patrol for the prevention of smuggling, besides doing also sentry duty at night at the stations to which they are attached. If they are burdened with abkari work also, they will not be able to do either the one or the other satisfactorily, and in consequence both duties will be neglected.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I ask whether there is no staff at present to do these abkari duties?

Mr. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No.

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഈ കള്ളു ഷാപ്പുകളെ ആരാണ് പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതു്?

Mr. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There is no necessity. All the shops are under one contractor for the whole taluk. He can tap any number of trees as he wants

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Is the number of shops fixed?

Mr. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Is there any body to check the number of shops?

Mr. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is not very difficult. That will not take much time.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the member be pleased to state how many Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Petty Officers are there in Parur Range, Alangad, Muvattupuzha, Vaikam and so on?

Mr. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I shall give the details about the staff now existing and the staff required, ...

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Do you propose to give them now? You should not exceed the time-limit.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): If I am not interrupted, I will give the whole detail in five or six minutes.

With the introduction of the independent shop system, the trees licensed for each shop have to be marked, the tapping *topes* and shops have to be regularly inspected and the kist and the tree tax due from the several shop-keepers have to be promptly collected. Additional staff is quite essential for the performance of all these duties.

It is also imperative that the staff to be provided should be adequate in view of the peculiar physical features of the tract comprising the Arukutty and Alwaye Divisions. In the Arukutty Division, the soil is sandy, and locomotion being over heavy sand with practically no roads, patrol and inspection work would be extremely difficult. A good portion of the Alwaye Division is interspersed with canals or sheets of water which prevent easy and free movement from place to place. A sufficient number of men is therefore necessary so that each unit may have only a manageable area assigned to it.

Another important point to be considered in fixing the additional staff required is that the staff necessary for properly working the system should be provided at the very commencement. Unless an adequate staff is sanctioned, it will not be possible to work the system strictly and properly in those tracts. Slackness in working the system at the commencement will lead to the spread of malpractices which it will be very difficult to eradicate later on. In order that the independent shop system may be successfully introduced and established, it is essential that shopkeepers should not be allowed at the very outest to indulge in illicit sales, illicit tapping and other irregularities. Once they acquire irregular habits, it will not be easy to get them to unlearn such methods. I submit therefore that the grant of adequate staff for these new tracts should not be withheld by the Council.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What is the anticipated revenue from the introduction of the independent shop system in these taluks?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am just coming to that.

I may also point out that it is estimated that in 1100 there will be an increase of about Rs. 77,000 over the current revenue by the extension of the independent shop system to the tracts mentioned above. But the rentals now fetched cannot but be taken as the minimum rentals realisable from the shops owing to the diffidence felt by the bidders for want of definite information regarding the value of each shop.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): How many shops are there in these taluks?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Four hundered and four.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): How many sub-shops are there?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There is no system of sub-shops. The number of shops that we are going to introduce is only 404.

The experience of the Department has been that, at the auction sales succeeding the introduction of the independent shop system, when the present purchasers will be in a position to arrive at a correct valuation of the shops, there will be brisk competition. I can confidently assert that there will, therefore, be a further appreciable increase in the rentals at the next auction sales. The revenue under tree tax also will show a substantial increase with the successful suppression of illicit practices. I would therefore earnestly request the House to pass the demand in view of the large increase in revenue and of the immense benefit accruing to the public from the introduction of the new system from an ethical point of view.

The total additional staff proposed consists of 6 Sub-Inspectors, 22 Petty Officers and 75 peons. When distributed among the Ranges, it will be found that only the minimum number of men required are allowed. I shall now deal with each Range separately.

As I have already pointed out, the staff now sanctioned is solely engaged in the preventive work connected with customs and tobacco revenue. There are practically no men for abkari work. It is essential for the successful introduction and satisfactory working of the independent shop system that an adequate staff should be appointed so that malpractices may be successfully put down with a strong hand from the very commencement. I again repeat that it will be very difficult to eradicate later on malpractices when once they have taken root. I would earnestly appeal to the House to consider this aspect of the question also before voting. Having regard to the foregoing facts and close proximity of the tract in question to a great length of the Cochin frontier, the staff proposed is the minimum consistent with efficiency. Out of deference, however, to the wishes of the Dewan, Mr. Van Ross and myself once again examined the question minutely with a view to see whether any reduction was possible. We found that any reduction in the staff already proposed would affect efficiency to a certain extent, but impelled by the keen desire to keep the expenditure at the lowest possible minimun, we have agreed to a few reductions though with serious misgivings.

MR T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Is it a good policy?

PRESIDENT: He will be very glad to reduce the whole staff. But is it possible?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): What is the reduction?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): About Rs. 2,700 a year, or Rs. 225 per month.

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): We would like to hear the scale of pay of the reduced staff.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that. However, I cannot but point out that the men will be strained to the utmost and very likely my chief may have to appear before the House, shortly after the trial, for a supplementary grant in 1100, in case the men appointed find it difficult to discharge their duties up to expectations and the maintenance of abkari revenue is threatened through lack of sufficient number of men.

Now I shall with your permission proceed to give the reductions proposed and the additional strength of the staff required for each Range and party. The additional staff proposed for the Aryad party in the Alleppey division is only one Petty Officer and two peons. A part of the Aryad division is included in the Ambalapuzha division and Ambalapuzha division is included in the Alleppey division and Alleppey division forms a part of the Shertallai taluk.

In view of the shifting sandy nature of the area and of the necessity to constantly inspect the tapping *topes* and detect illicit distillation, etc., no reduction in this staff is possible without seriously affecting Government revenue and giving rise to all kinds of illicit practices.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it in Aryad alone?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No. The staff proposed to be reduced is one 4th grade peon, one 4th grade Petty Officer and one 5th grade peon. That is all.

Then about Arukutty division and Shertallai Range. According to the proposal already made to the Government, this range which comprises an area of 64·04 square miles of loose sand is divided into four parties. The *pakuthies* of Vayalar west and east are included in the range. After a very careful consideration a slight redistribution of *pakuthies* is found possible. Vayalar, west and east, with an area of 15·08 sq. miles are taken away from the Shertallai Range and included in the Turavur party of the newly proposed Veluttulli Range and the number of parties is reduced from four to two.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Are there no roads in Shertallai? (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Very few. Practically none. (*Laughter.*) The area of the Shertallai Range will then be 48·96 sq. miles. In view of the heavy work the Inspector will have to do in connection with the prosecution of the cases which will be numerous relating to both Shertallai and Veluttulli Ranges and also of the peculiar physical features of the locality which render it very difficult to traverse from one place to another, the area will be ample for an Inspector. The parties will be (1) Shertallai party comprising the *pakuthies* of Shertallai north and south and Kokotamangalam which

will be placed directly under the Inspector, the total area being 17·73 sq. miles, and (2) Mararikkulam party comprising Tannirmukkam south and north and Mararikkulam north pakuthies, the total area being 31·33 sq. miles which will be placed under a Sub-Inspector. There is at present no Sub-Inspector at Tannirmukkam, but by constituting Veluttulli into a range, the Sub-Inspector who is now in charge of the Veluttulli party becomes available and he may be posted to Mararikkulam party. These changes will result in a saving of one Sub-Inspector on Rs. 35, one Petty Officer on Rs. 15 and 5 peons 2 (10) & 3 (9)—or Rs. 97 per month. But, as will be observed from the above, the jurisdiction of the party directly under the Inspector—that is, Shertallai party—having been increased, the staff sanctioned to that party requires a slight strengthening by the addition of a peon on Rs. 11. Similarly the Mararikkulam party has to be strengthened by the addition of 2 peons on Rs. 11 and 10, respectively. The net saving on account of the redistribution comes thus to Rs. 65 per mensem.

The reasons for the creation of a new Range with Veluttulli as headquarters have already been given. There will be three parties in this Range as first proposed, *viz.*, (1) Nerekadavu party under a Sub-Inspector as at present; (2) Arur party directly under the Inspector; and (3) Turavur party under a Sub-Inspector as at present with Vayalar east and west added to it. The jurisdiction of the Turavur party having been increased by the addition of Vayalar east and west, the staff of the party is to be increased by the addition of a Petty Officer on Rs. 20 and two peons on Rs. 12 and 10 each from the savings pointed out above, the net saving being Rs. 23 per mensem.

No reduction is possible in the Vaikam Range and what is asked for in the original proposal is the minimum required consistently with efficiency.

In the Alwaye Division also a slight redistribution of parties is proposed and the possible reductions are shown below.

Kunnatnad Range (178·57 sq. miles) is divided into four parties. By a redistribution of *pakuthies*, the number of parties is reduced from 4 to 3 by the abolition of the Vazhakkulam party, *i.e.*, (1) The Perumbavur party will go directly under the Inspector; (2) the Cheranallur party under a Sub-Inspector; and (3) the Mamala party under another Sub-Inspector. These changes result in a saving of one Sub-Inspector (Rs. 35) one Petty Officer (Rs. 15) and 5 peons 2 (Rs. 10) and 3 (Rs. 9), or Rs. 97 per mensem. The Inspector's party area having been increased, his staff requires strengthening by the addition of two peons on Rs. 9 each. In the proposal noted above, an additional Petty Officer on Rs. 15 is provided. This Petty Officer should be of a higher grade so that when he makes inspection of tapping *topes*, etc., independently of the Inspector, he may exercise better control over the peons. It is therefore proposed to substitute a Petty Officer on Rs. 20 for the Petty Officer on Rs. 15. The net saving thus comes to Rs. 74 per mensem.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I point out that we shall be satisfied with the net result?

[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: The net result has been already stated.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): We shall be satisfied with that.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether the independent shop system was introduced elsewhere?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether they were able to work properly?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Seven officers and 20 peons are insufficient.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഇൻഡിപ്പെൻഡൻറു ഷാപ്പുസിസ്റ്റം ഏതു ആണ്ടിലാണ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതു്?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I think it was in 1096.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The only information that we want is, when was the independent shop system introduced in Muvattupuzha and whether any additional staff was entertained.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): If the member will please wait for five minutes I will be able to satisfy him. (*Laughter.*)

In this connection, I beg to bring to the notice of the House that no additional staff was sanctioned when the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha were brought under the independent shop system in 1096. During the reorganisation in Tulam, 1098, Todupuzha Range was abolished and the taluk was placed under the control of the Inspector, Muvattupuzha, as proposed by my chief in his anxiety to cut down expenditure in conformity with the wishes of the House. There is not much of customs work in the two taluks and the staff is mainly engaged in the prevention of smuggling of tobacco and other dutiable articles. It was hoped that we should be able to manage with the present staff. But experience has now shown that this staff finds it very difficult to cope with the additional work. There is much scope for the improvement of the abkari revenue in these taluks consequent on the extensive *puduval* registry and the settlement of people on the hills which a short time ago were unoccupied. The occupants, being mostly of the labouring class, take to drinking and unless the staff is sufficiently strengthened, malpractices cannot be successfully put down and the abkari revenue maintained.

PRESIDENT: Has any additional staff been sanctioned?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No. The present Division Officer has recommended the appointment of an additional staff.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Is the statement made by Mr. Hoogewerf, that no additional hands were appointed at the time of the introduction of the independent shop system, correct?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes. It is because of the recommendations received from the officer in charge of the Piravam Circle that an additional staff is applied for.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid this must close. Will you please allow him to complete?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): No, we will be satisfied with this.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai says that he is satisfied. But have you finished, Mr. Govinda Pillai?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): A little more; I will finish soon.

The jurisdiction of the Muvattupuzha Range Inspector is too extensive and he finds it very difficult to do his work satisfactorily. It is therefore extremely necessary in the interest of Government to constitute the Todupuzha taluk into a separate range under an Inspector as before, and the additional men required are six officers, one Inspector, one Petty Officer and four peons.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question now. They want to know what the present staff at Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha is.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Nobody wanted to know that. For these reasons I beg to oppose the motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Before I proceed I should like to explain the system that is now prevalent. According to the present system we have got independent arrack shops. The present contractor has no limit in regard to the large number of toddy-yielding trees we have there. He could tap any number of trees without paying tree tax.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Govinda Pillai has already explained it.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Under the new system, the greater the number of trees the larger the revenue. In my opinion, as I was the contractor of those taluks, unless a sufficient staff is appointed, there is no possibility of collecting the Government revenue. It appears to me that taking advantage of this, the toddy shop-keepers and the arrack shop-keepers will not find sale in their shops, and in the next auction sale the Government will lose their revenue unless this illicit distillation is stopped. Therefore I am of opinion that a certain staff will be required to have an effective control over illicit distillation and illicit tapping.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I must again thank Mr. Govinda Pillai for the straightforward answer he gave to some of my brethren on this side of the House with regard to the extra staff which was not appointed at the time the independent shop system was introduced into the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf, may I ask you if you are prepared to accept the reduction he has mentioned and withdraw your motion? You need not then speak on it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): No, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Very well.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The trump argument on this side, therefore, is that when this system was introduced in the above taluks four years ago, not a single man was appointed there, and I shall just refer to what Mr. Van Ross has said in the first session of this Council in July, 1922.

> "The reason for centralising work in my office is that my office has to attend to a great deal of work connected with many taluks where the independent shop system has not been introduced. Wherever that system has been introduced the work has been reduced."

On the face of this statement I cannot understand how he has been bold enough to ask this House for the present grant. The independent shop system was introduced into the areas where the same system in regard to the vend of toddy was introduced about ten years ago. These Ranges have the usual staff of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Petty Officers and peons like other Ranges. The Acting Excise Commissioner will come forward with the stock argument that because these taluks border the Cochin frontier there is much scope for malpractices and also as there is a large number of trees to mark, and Shertallai is a wide area, the additional staff is necessary. There is quite a little army of men posted on our frontiers to prevent smuggling and other malpractices and a large range staff is provided in these taluks as the scope for malpractices, illicit distillation, possession of arrack and toddy and other grave abkari crimes are greater in taluk vend areas than in the areas under the independent shop system. Tree-marking and collection of *kist*, therefore, alone remain as the ostensible reasons for an extra staff. But as stated before I do not think any extra staff was asked for or sanctioned when the new system was introduced four years ago in the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha. No explanation was given. There was collection of *kist* from individual shops and there was the additional work of tree-marking in those two taluks also. A great deal is tried to be made out on the work of collection of *kists* when asking for extra grant. The only work in connection with the collection is the issuing of chalans by the Range Inspector. The rules require that the shop-keepers have to remit the money direct to the treasury, and produce the receipt to the Inspector as a token of the *kist* being paid. It

is most irregular for the Range Officer or any of his subordinates to collect shop rentals direct from renters as it affords scope for a great deal of malpractices. I know this vicious practice is going on in the Department and the sooner it is put a stop to the better for all concerned. The important ranges of Veluttulli, Nerekadavu, Perumbalam, Puttotta, Vadayar, Todupuzha, Mamala, Vallam and Varappuzha which were under Inspectors have now been placed under Sub-Inspectors. The whole trouble is now due to the topsy-turvy system of the so-called reorganisation of two years ago. As I said, we have been travelling in a vicious circle. If the old arrangement of having each range under an Inspector with party Petty Officers and peons under him had continued the present grant would never have been brought before this House.

If therefore there is any difficulty at all, the only way out of it is to go back to the old system and put the ranges which exist, under Inspectors and Petty Officers and peons and do away with the Sub-Inspectors. This arrangement will, I am sure, bring about a great saving to the Government instead of increasing the expenditure. This grant made on the top of the loss of about five lakhs of rupees brought about by the delay of four long years in introducing the independent shop system in these taluks is adding insult to injury and comes with a bad grace at the present crisis. I fully expected that this would be the first cut the Financial Secretary would have made in connection with the altered situation brought about by the floods. I hope this House including Mr. Karayalar will vote *en bloc* on this motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*) : Will Mr. Hoogewerf be pleased to tell me what kinds of trees are tapped for toddy in Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : *Chundappana.* That makes the work much easier.

MR. S SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): What kind of trees are tapped at Shertallai and Vaikam ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Cocoanut trees.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Is the yield of forty cocoanut trees equal to that of one *Chundappana* ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I did not say 40, but I said 10 or 15. I cannot understand the argument at all.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I move that the question be now put.

The motion for closure was carried.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*) : I have nothing more to add. If my friends want something to be reduced,

[President.]

I will reduce Rs. 2,700 or Rs. 225 per mensem. I am willing to clear any doubt since I have materials ready. The calculation has to be made for eleven months and hence the amount to be reduced is Rs 2,475, and not Rs. 2,700.

PRESIDENT: Inasmuch as Mr. Hoogewerf is not willing to withdraw this motion I have to put it to the vote of the House.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I did not catch you. Will the member do away with the Sub-Inspectors ?

PRESIDENT: That is not the motion before the House. The motion is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 14,630.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If Rs. 2,500 be reduced I shall accept it and withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: The motion is withdrawn on the understanding that the allotment will be reduced by Rs. 2,475.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 81 to 100.

The following motions being identical were deemed to have been withdrawn:—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

81. To reduce the allotment of Rs, 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 14,630. (Provision for the appointment of an additional staff in connection with the introduction of the independent shop system in the northern taluks.)

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

82. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 14,630.

The time for the demand having expired, the following motions lapsed:—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

83. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 47,700.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF:

84. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs, 26,580. (Pay of Sub-Inspectors.)

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

85. To reduce the allotment of Rs, 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 26,580.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

86. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 26,580. (Abolition of Sub-Inspectors)

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

87. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 3,240.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

88. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,836 for the Reserve Petty Officers and Peons

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

89. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for land acquisition charges by Rs. 1,000

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

90. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,35,000 for Ranges by Rs. 15,000.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF:

91. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

92. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

93. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

94. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

95. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

96. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,300 for Customs by Rs. 418.
(Pay of 4 peons for strengthening the staff of Arukutty Chowkey.)

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

97. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,300 for Customs by Rs. 828.
(Temporary staff of 6 Petty Officers.)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

98. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,300 under Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

99. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,300 under Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF:

100. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·05 lakhs for the Excise Department under Demand III by Rs. 100.

(To draw attention to the necessity of reducing Excise Divisions.)

PRESIDENT: I shall now put Demand III—Excise Department—to the vote of the House. The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5·05 lakhs *minus* Rs. 2,475, under Demand III, be granted.

The grant was made.

The Council adjourned at 5-20 P. M. to meet at 11-30 the next morning.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 7th August, 1924.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-four of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I am sorry to have to tell the House that I find it necessary to adjourn this sitting *sine die*. The reason is His Highness' health. It is, I think, known that His Highness' health has been indifferent for some days past. But until yesterday afternoon, there was no reason to feel anxiety in regard to it. But since yesterday afternoon, I have to say with very great grief that His Highness' health has been giving cause for much anxiety. I think that, in these circumstances, it is not proper for us to be sitting here and discussing the Budget. I am sure the members of the House would be as anxious about His Highness' health as myself; and it is difficult for me to be present in this House and also to be doing my duty by His Highness simultaneously. I am sure that the members of the House also would not have that calmness and composure of mind which are necessary for a proper discussion of the Budget. In these circumstances, I have decided to adjourn this session of the House *sine die*.

This means that we cannot meet before the advent of the new year and that the standing sanctions will have to go on. Expenditure will have to be incurred under the usual fixed charges. It might be possible to put off new schemes which have been included in the Budget till the Council meets again. But, as you all know, conditions are now unusual and a certain amount of expenditure has to be incurred by way of starting relief works and by way of other urgent measures before the Council meets again. I trust the Council will have no objection to such necessary expenditure being incurred.

The Council adjourned at 11-38 A. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECOND SESSION, 1099.

(Adjourned Meeting.)

Monday, 22nd September, 1924.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven-forty of the Clock, the President presiding.

NEW MEMBER.

The following member was sworn in:

Mr. A. J. Van Ross (*Excise Commissioner*).

HIS HIGHNESS SRI MULAM TIRUNAL, THE LATE MAHA RAJA OF TRAVANCORE.

The President addressed the Council as below, the whole House standing.

PRESIDENT: Meeting as we do in this Chamber for the first time since the mournful event of the 23rd Karkatakam last, it is our duty to pay our tribute of reverence to the memory of the great Ruler who, for nearly four decades, was moulding the destinies of this land. The loss that Travancore has sustained by the passing away of Sri Mulam Tirunal is indeed far too great for adequate expression, and I feel that no words that we may give expression to can serve to convey, even in a faint manner, the magnitude of that loss and the depth of sorrow into which a devoted people have been plunged in consequence. This is neither the place nor the occasion to take stock of the marvellous advance which this country made in every conceivable direction during His late Highness' long and glorious rule. The country stands to-day in the forefront of progressive administrations solely as the result of His Highness' unremitting devotion to duty, to the cause of good government and to the happiness and prosperity of his subjects whom he loved so well and truly. Almost at the commencement of his reign His Highness said: "In this age of advancement, we cannot wear the laurel and rest. Excelsior must be our watchword."; and with passionate devotion His Highness strove to live up to that ideal, day in and day out, knowing no leisure but only labour. Both by his life and his work he

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

has left behind him a noble tradition which, for ages to come, must serve posterity as an example and an inspiration. This Legislative Council, on which it is our proud privilege to sit, was his spontaneous gift more than thirty-six years ago when representative institutions were unknown in Indian States, and even to-day it maintains its position in the forefront of such institutions. "None knew him but to love, none named him but to praise."

It is further our duty and our privilege to tender respectfully to the gracious lady, who has now assumed the direction of the country's affairs, Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, our humble fealty and homage.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Vaikam Satyagraha.

52. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Congress volunteers have occasioned any breach of the peace at Vaikam;

(*b*) whether the caste-Hindus who oppose *Satyagraha* at Vaikam have threatened breach of the peace;

(*c*) whether some caste-Hindus at Vaikam have publicly attacked Congress volunteers;

(*d*) whether the Government have taken any steps against caste-Hindus who have committed breach of the peace;

(*e*) whether the Government allow Christians and Mahomedans to walk along the roads in question without molestation;

(*f*) whether Ezhavas and Pulayas who have become Arya-Samajists were refused admission to the prohibited roads;

(*g*) whether the Government are prepared to allow Ezhavas and Pulayas converted to Islam or Christianity to walk along those roads;

(*h*) whether Valans and Ezhavas take *kodikkayar* (flag-rope) to the western gate of the Vaikam temple a day previous to the commencement of the *utsavam* there; and

(*i*) whether any of the volunteers convicted were handcuffed by the Police when they were being taken to the jail?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) Government have no information that the Congress volunteers have actually committed any breach of the peace, but their actions were such as to provoke others to disturb the peace.

(*b*) Government have no information to that effect

(*c*) It is reported that some Congress volunteers were assaulted while they were going in procession.

(*d*) The Police are investigating two cases of such assault brought to their notice.

(*e*) On the assumption that the member is referring to the roads within the Vaikam temple *sanketam* limits, the answer is that there is no prohibition against the use of these roads by the communities mentioned.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The question, being a hypothetical one, cannot be answered.

(*h*) It is reported that a particular family of Valans is allowed to do so and a *suddhi* is performed immediately thereafter.

(*i*) Government have no information, but will enquire.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In regard to answer (*a*), may I know what their actions were which provoked others to disturb peace?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It will be clear from the Press Communiqué itself.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The Press Communiqué is not clear. That is why I asked the question whether a breach of the peace was actually provoked.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As breach of the peace was not actually committed.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the District Magistrate has issued any order to the caste-Hindus who oppose *Satyagraha* to keep the peace?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): They were told that, if they persisted, action would be taken against them, and therefore they gave it up.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Did any caste-Hindus depose before the Magistrate that they would create a breach of the peace?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not aware of it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): With regard to the answer to (*c*), are the Government aware that the Congress volunteers were assaulted by some caste-Hindus at Vaikam in the presence of the Police?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe some Police officer was present and action was taken.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In regard to (*e*), my question is with regard to the roads round the Vaikam temple. The answer is: "On the assumption that the

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

member is referring to the roads within the Vaikam temple *sanketam* limits, the answer is that there is no prohibition against the use of these roads by the communities mentioned." My question is with regard to the roads round the Vaikam temple.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The answer is with reference to that.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I put the further question whether there is no prohibition against other communities.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not quite follow the question.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): The answer is: "On the assumption that the member is referring to the roads within the Vaikam temple *sanketam* limits, the answer is that there is no prohibition against the use of these roads by the communities mentioned." My *further* question is whether there is any prohibition against other communities.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not quite follow what exactly the member means by "prohibition against other communities."

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I mean prohibition against the use of the roads by other communities.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Communities which were not using the roads were prohibited from using them. What were the communities that were so prohibited is a question of fact which has to be elicited hereafter.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether Mahomedans and Christians who were converted to those religions from Ezhavas and Pulayas are, as a matter of fact, admitted to these roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The answer is contained in (*g*).

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): No, that is another question.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Government are not aware that recent converts have been using them.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): My question is whether they are prohibited.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is no such thing as prohibition or permission. The communities that were using the roads were entitled to such use and they may use them now also.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): But some communities are prohibited.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The communities that were not using the roads before are not allowed to use them now. If they did not use them before, they cannot use them now.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I ask whether Christians and Mahomedans recently converted from Ezhavas and Pulayas were not allowed the use of the roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I say, strictly speaking, they ought not to be allowed to use these roads if they had not been using it before conversion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): "Whether they are prohibited" is my question.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is no prohibition by Government.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether Ezhavas and Pulayas who have become Arya Samajists are prohibited from using these roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): With regard to (*f*), may I know why some Arya Samajists were refused admission to the prohibited roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Because they were not using those roads before.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there were many Arya Samajists before?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A particular person who was not using the road in the morning cannot use it in the evening; persons who were not using the roads before will not be allowed to make use of them now.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I want a definite answer.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Madhava Variar, you cannot compel the member to answer in the way in which you want him to answer.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Government are bound to answer. I am entitled to it.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I say Arya Samajists were not allowed to use the roads.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I ask whether they were prohibited or not.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Answer (*f*) distinctly says whether the Ezhavas and Pulayas who have become Arya Samajists were refused admission to the prohibited roads or not. They were refused admission.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Why were they refused admission?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Because they were not using the roads before.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there were Arya Samajists before?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The fact that one becomes an Arya Samajist will not alter the matter. For the information of the member, I will quote the case reported in 10, *T. L. R.*, in which the custom prohibiting particular communities from using public roads was recognised, even when particular individuals of such communities had become converts.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was it about Vaikam?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No about Nagercoil or some other place.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not ask any question about the *T. L. R.* My question is with regard to the opinion of Government in the matter.

PRESIDENT: The opinion of Government cannot form the subject of a question.

Violence of caste-Hindus at Vaikam.

53. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the caste-Hindus at Vaikam have organised themselves into a party to molest *Satyagraha* volunteers; and,

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any action against them and, if so, what?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The member is referred to the answer* to Mr. Joseph Panjikaran's question.

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* The question and answer, which are not included in the Proceedings as the member was absent at question time, are reproduced below:

Alleged Maltreatment of Satyagrahis at Vaikam by some caste-Hindus.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): (*a*) Do the Government know that the *Satyagrahis* at Vaikam are being assaulted, belaboured and otherwise maltreated by a section of the caste-Hindus?

(*b*) What steps have the Government taken to put a stop to such maltreatment, and if no steps have been taken, why?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): (*a*) and (*b*) The member's attention is invited to the Press Communiqué dated the 10th July 1924, published at page 542, Part I, of the *Government Gazette* dated the 17th July, 1924.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Question (*a*) is "whether the caste-Hindus at Vaikam have organised themselves into a party to molest the *Satyagraha* volunteers." The answer given is not clear.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The answer is in the Press Communiqué itself.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not find it there. Will the member be pleased to refer to the portion which relates to the answer?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

"My enquiries go to show that they had no hand in the matter at all, and that the assailants on Congress volunteers were other than their men. The above leaders say that they are even ready to send their own men with the Congress volunteers to see that they are not molested".

That is what is said in the Press Communiqué.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): My question is whether a party of caste-Hindus was organised to molest the *Satyagraha* volunteers.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It was not organised to molest the *Satyagraha* volunteers.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the *Satyagraha* volunteers were actually molested by this organisation?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is distinctly stated in the Press Communiqué itself.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Did the Government make any enquiry?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government asked the District Magistrate to enquire and report. He has sent his report.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Were the volunteers molested by the Police?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): He says that he was not aware of any molestation. He distinctly says what actually took place. He has narrated all details.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Do the Government believe that the Congress volunteers have not been molested?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The District Magistrate says so and Government accept that.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Do the Government propose to make an enquiry in regard to this matter?

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyer.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If there is any specific allegation about any particular incident, Government may enquire.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): There are many allegations.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If there are specific allegations against specific persons, the necessary enquiries will be made.

Police Violence at Vaikam.

54. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Have the Police at Vaikam snatched *charkas* from *Satyagrahis*?

(*b*) Have the Police used violence towards *Satyagraha* volunteers?

(*c*) If so, is it allowed by the Government?

(*d*) If it is not allowed, have the Government taken any action against the Police?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The member is referred to the answer to the question put by Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know, with regard to (*b*), whether the Police used violence towards the *Satyagraha* volunteers?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Police have not used violence towards the *Satyagraha* volunteers.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was any enquiry made?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The District Magistrate says that, except for some pushing at the time when the *charkas* were caught hold of, the Police did not use violence towards the *Satyagraha* volunteers. I do not know what sort of enquiry he held. After going to the place and making the necessary investigation and enquiry, he has sent his report.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether he actually made any enquiry?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): He must have.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether he examined any witnesses?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not in a position to say definitely.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR, (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : There is an allegation that the Police used violence. Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry in the matter and collect all information ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : There is no use in making a vague enquiry. If there is a specific allegation an enquiry will be started. I do not know whether a vague enquiry will be of an use.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): My question is whether the Government will make an enquiry.

PRESIDENT : Does not the District Magistrate say in his report that he did make an enquiry, Mr. Subba Aiyar ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : He did make an enquiry and he ought to have made an enquiry. Mr. Madhava Variar wants to know how many witnesses were examined.

PRESIDENT : In an enquiry, is the enquiring officer bound to examine witnesses in writing ?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): My question is whether the District Magistrate asked any other person than the Police.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Subba Aiyar, does not the District Magistrate say that he asked the *Satyagrahis* themselves ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Yes, Sir; about the assistance to be given to the assaulted persons.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether Government have taken any action against the Police for using violence against the *Satyagraha* volunteers ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is no proof that any Police officer has used violence.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): It has been admitted by the District Magistrate himself that there was violence.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Except for some pushing when the *charkas* were caught hold of from the *Satyagrahis*, there was no violence. Even that pushing could have been avoided if the *Satyagrahis* had handed over the *charkas*.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) Do the Government consider that pushing is innocent ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : It depends on the circumstances. If any particular article has to be seized, some violence is unavoidable, just as in the case of the arrest of a person.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the *charkas* were damaged by the Police ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The Government have no information on that point.

[President.]

Removal of Charkas by the Police at Vaikam.

55. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Police at Vaikam have been forcibly taking away *charkas* from *Satyagrahis*?

(*b*) How many *charkas* have they thus taken away?

(*c*) Under what provision of law has this been done?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) The member is referred to the answer to the question put by Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.

(*b*) The number of *charkas* seized is reported to be about fifteen.

(*c*) Section 35 (*b*) and (*d*) of the Police Regulation, IV of 1095.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether the Government have obstructed the road by putting up barricades across it?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Whether the barricades are obstructing the roads is a matter of opinion and I am not prepared to answer that.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): No, it is a matter of fact. The question whether they have put up barricades across the roads so as to obstruct the roads is a question of fact and not of opinion. Were not the *charkas* placed behind the barricades?

PRESIDENT: What do you mean by "behind the barricades"?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): On one side of the barricades, that is what I mean.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The information is that the *charkas* were placed not quite close to the barricades, but on the road itself, causing much inconvenience to the people and preventing traffic and causing nuisance to the adjacent shop-owners.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I know that the whole thing is in a public road. What I want to know is whether there are not barricades put up by the Government across the road.

PRESIDENT: That has been answered; there is a barricade.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): My question is whether these *charkas* were not placed on one side of the barricades put up by the Government themselves across the road so as to obstruct it.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Whether it is an obstruction or not is a matter of opinion. Therefore I decline to answer that question.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not think it is a matter of opinion.

PRESIDENT: The member in charge is not bound to answer all supplementary questions. Your question as to whether there is a barricade, he has already answered.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): How is it that these *charkas* were seized when they did not obstruct anybody from passing from one side of the road to another?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As I have already said, on account of these *charkas*, all sorts of people gathered together causing much inconvenience to the shop-owners and the public who wanted to visit the shops. That was the obstruction caused by the *charkas*; and that necessitated their seizure.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that the barricade that they have put up across the road is producing much inconvenience to the people on account of the obstruction caused thereby?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not aware that it is causing any obstruction.

Removal of Charkas by the Police at Vaikam.

56. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware of the seizure of *charkas* by the Police at the Vaikam road, and, if so, what is the number so seized?

(*b*) In doing so, had the Police any Government authority behind them?

(*c*) If not, what action have the Government taken against the policemen concerned?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) to (*c*) The member is referred to the answers to the question put by Mr. Joseph Panjikaran and to question 55.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know how many *charkas* were returned to the *Satyagrahis*? It is stated that fifteen were seized. I want to know how many were returned.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe that all of them were returned. There is no definite information on the point.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that a few of them were destroyed?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have the Government made an enquiry?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What was the necessity for an enquiry?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The report in the newspapers that *charkas* were taken and that all of them were not returned.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There was no specific allegation by anybody complaining that any *charka* was not returned.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do the *Satyagrahis* as a rule make complaints?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If they do not make complaints, they must thank themselves for it. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many days after the *charkas* were seized were they returned?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it under the orders of the Government that they were returned?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It does not appear to be so from the papers.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What were the *Satyagrahis* prosecuted for? Was it for making noise with the *charka* or for singing and causing obstruction to the public?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is distinctly stated in the answer.

PRESIDENT: The answer states that they were prosecuted under Section 35 (*b*) and (*d*) of the Police Regulation.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not for making noise by singing "hoarsely," attracting a crowd, spinning, and causing obstruction?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many for singing hoarsely?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A separate statement has not been called for.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was the *charka* taken as a *thondi*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether the *charkas* were taken as *thondi* articles.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What is the meaning of the word *thondi*?

PRESIDENT: *Corpus delicti.*

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was there any necessity for seizing these *charkas*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Since, after repeated requests, the *Satyagrahis* did not give up spinning which caused nuisance to the neighbouring shop-keepers and the public, the Police were bound to abate the nuisance by exercising the power vested in them.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How far from the scene of occurrence were the shops?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Quite near.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many yards?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know the actual number of yards.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was any written complaint received from any shop-keeper or any other individual?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The shop-keepers have complained.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does the Press Communiqué to which I have referred say so?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Written complaints were made by the shop-keepers.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The Press Communiqué says nothing on this point.

Is it not an invasion of the personal right of an individual to take away from him by force anything that belongs to him?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion and I cannot allow you to put the question.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Ask me outside the House and pay me for it and I shall say. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I thought he was standing here as a lawyer.

PRESIDENT: Not to answer questions relating to opinions.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*). I am asking a question only as regards a point of law.

PRESIDENT: He is not bound to answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was not this act of wrenching away *charkas* from these people a provocative act?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Police in so doing were only discharging their duty to the public.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): On what did the District Magistrate base his report referred to in the Press Communiquè issued by the Chief Secretary?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vaikl*): I have already stated that he based the report on the enquiry made personally by him. What exactly he did it is not possible to know.

[President.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not on the report of the Assistant Superintendent of Police that the report was based?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It might have been one of the materials on which the report was based?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does the report say that he made personal enquiries?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): He did enquire.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does the Communiquè say that he made personal enquiries? He only refers to the report made by the Assistant Superintendent of Police.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No. I have already stated that the District Magistrate has submitted the report on an enquiry made by him.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When did the Ag. Commissioner of Police go to Vaikam?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise out of this.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not on the same day or on the next day after the trouble?

PRESIDENT: I think it is answered elsewhere. But it does not arise out of this.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was the Ag. Commissioner of Police on the scene when all this trouble took place?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise out of this question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In the Press Communiqué issued by the Chief Secretary, it was stated that the District Magistrate said thus:

"It is no doubt true that the Congress volunteers were trained to non-violence and I may also add that no use of force by them had been brought to notice".

The Ag. Police Commissioner stated before this House thus:

"To avoid using force on the person, the police began to remove the *charkas*. The volunteers began to offer resistance quite contrary to their creed."

These two statements do not tally. What is the explanation?

PRESIDENT: You cannot ask him to explain. Mr. Subba Aiyar is not bound to explain.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): From the Communiquè I understand that there was some pushing back or so and no other assault was committed by the Police. In the Ag. Police Commissioner's speech—

PRESIDENT: You cannot bring to the notice of the House the difference between what is contained in the Press Communiqué and what the Ag. Police Commissioner said on a different occasion.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): From the Press Communique I understand that, in the removal of *charkas*, there was pushing or so. What is meant by "*or so*"? (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: You may put your own interpretation upon it.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the nature of the "other assault" committed in addition to pushing? It implies an assault of some other nature also.

PRESIDENT: With regard to the interpretation of the language, you may put your own interpretation upon it. You may comment upon it as you like, but it does not form the subject of a question.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the anti-*satyagrahis* began to beat upon empty kerosene tins?

PRESIDENT: I must disallow that question as it does not arise out of this.

Prohibitory Order on Mr. Aiyappan.

57. Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Kottayam District Magistrate has recently issued a prohibitory order to Mr. K. Aiyappan, B. A., asking him not to address public meetings in that District?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table copies of all the papers connected therewith, including reports of the speeches which Mr. Aiyappan might be alleged to have made?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I want to know how many speeches were delivered by Mr. Aiyappan and reported to Government.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Some speeches. I am not just now aware of the exact number.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Where were those speeches delivered?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not in a position to state exactly the places where those speeches were delivered.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): My question is whether Government have got reports about these speeches.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Certainly.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): If so, they must be able to tell the House—

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Not necessarily. The answer to question (*b*) is in the negative.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am not asking for that. I want to know the number of the speeches delivered and the places where those speeches were delivered.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar claims notice of that question.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased at least to publish those portions of the speeches which are considered to be objectionable and place copies on the table?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government do not think it necessary to do so.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know why?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not bound to state the reasons.

PRESIDENT: He must have notice. The speeches must be read.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that, when Mr. Aiyappan was making a speech at Vaikam, Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, interfered and asked Mr. Aiyappan not to refer to his name during the course of the speech?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I claim notice.

Alleged Assault by the Police on Satyagrahis at Vaikam.

58. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Police at Vaikam assaulted *Satyagrahis* on two days about the 8th Mithunam, 1099, kicking and fisting and knocking them down continuously for hours together?

(*b*) Is it true that Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, was at the spot when this assault was going on?

(*c*) Was not the Ag. Commissioner of Police at Vaikam, with a host of other Police officers, including Mr. B. Narayana Pillai, the Ag. Superintendent of Police, Quilon, during these days?

(*d*) Have the Government instituted any enquiry in respect of this conduct of the Police at Vaikam?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) The member is referred to the answer to Mr. Joseph Panjikaran's question.

(*b*) Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar was present when the *charkas* were seized.

(*c*) The Ag. Police Commissioner was camping at Vaikam from the 7th to the 10th Mithunam, 1099. Mr. B. Narayana Pillai, Ag. District Superintendent of Police, Quilon, was at Vaikam for a few hours on the 7th Mithunam on business unconnected with Vaikam *Satyagraha*.

(*d*) Under instructions from Government, the District Magistrate held an enquiry and his report has already been published as a Press Communiqué.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that several respectable people were reported to be present at the time when the Police were assaulting the volunteers at Vaikam?

PRESIDENT: Reported?

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Yes, in the newspapers.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What is the question, please?

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that there were reports in the newspapers that several respectable persons were present at the time when the Police were assaulting the volunteers on the 7th and the 8th Mithunam?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It might be that some newspapers have referred to it. But the Government have no specific information about it.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that one of the persons present was the representative of the Associated Press of India?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not aware.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that the reference made in the District Magistrate's report to Government has been questioned by that press representative, that he challenged the District Magistrate to name any one item in which he had gone wrong, and that the District Magistrate refused to accept the challenge?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Unless anything is brought to the notice of Government by any person aggrieved, it is not possible for them to take any action.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): My point is that the Government are now depending upon the report of the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate himself refused to accept the challenge and name the specific items.

PRESIDENT: Government are not aware of that and they want notice of that.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The correspondence between the Press representative and the District Magistrate is published in the papers.

PRESIDENT: It is not referred to in the Press Communiquè.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I want to know whether the Government are aware of such correspondence going on between the Associated Press representative and the District Magistrate.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Unless the attention of the Government is specifically drawn to it by somebody, it is not possible for the Government to know anything about it.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am drawing their attention to this.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not aware of it.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry about this correspondence between the representative of the Associated Press and the District Magistrate of Kottayam?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If there is any necessity for it, they will make enquiries.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The necessity is clear.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar, you may say that the Government will consider.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): That will be quite enough.

Are the Government aware that the District Magistrate did not make any enquiry about this occurrence in the *Satyagraha* camp and did not ask even a single volunteer or any authority connected with the *Satyagraha* function there?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have already stated that the District Magistrate made an enquiry. As to the nature of the enquiry, Government have no information.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry with respect to the respectable persons who were there when the alleged assault on the *Satyagrahis* was going on?

PRESIDENT: Government should know who those persons were.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): For instance, I have mentioned the representative of the Associated Press. Is it not open to any particular person to write to the papers?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): How can any action be taken on everything stated in the papers. If any serious allegation has to be made, it must be made by somebody to the Government and only then will it be possible for the Government to take action.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I take the responsibility now.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The member might have brought this to the notice of Government and given information as to the responsible persons who were present, and Government would have instituted an enquiry.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am prepared to give the names.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If the member writes to Government stating the allegations, they may take action in the matter.

Disturbances at Vaikam.

59. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) whether they have received any report about the occurrences on the Vaikam temple roads during the last thirty days;

(*b*) whether they are aware of the fact that an *anti-Satyagraha* movement has recently been started at Vaikam by a few caste-Hindus;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that disturbances have taken place between the *Satyagrahis* and the *anti-Satyagrahis* outside the barricade on the western road, and that several *Satyagrahis* have been brutally assaulted by the *anti-Satyagrahis*;

(*d*) whether the Police were present at or near the spot during these disturbances;

(*e*) whether it is true that the Police have been conniving at acts of violence committed on the public road; and

(*f*) who were the Police officers specially stationed at Vaikam during the last thirty days and whether the Acting Commissioner of Police visited Vaikam during this period and, if so, on what dates?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*), (*d*), & (*e*) The member is referred to the answer to Mr. Panjikaran's question.

(*f*) Information will be called for.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether the disturbance which took place between the *anti-Satyagrahis* and the *Satyagrahis* at Vaikam was outside the barricade or inside it?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There was no question of disturbance.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The answer to my question whether it is a fact that disturbances have taken place, is that the member is referred to the answer given to Mr. Joseph Panjikaran's question. From the Press Communiqué I find that there were disturbances between the *anti-Satyagrahis* and the *Satyagrahis*. I want to know whether those disturbances were outside the barricade or inside it.

PRESIDENT: Do you mean the temple side or the other side of the barricade, *i. e.* the east or the west?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The west, and not the temple side.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe so.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Was it not on the public road?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Of course. The other side of the barricade means the road.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Do the Government recognise that the roads leading up to the barricade are public roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know what the member means by "public road". That itself remains to be explained.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I explain it, Sir?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I mean by a public road a road which every person can use as of right.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have already stated that it was some distance outside the barricade. Up to the barricade everybody had a right to pass.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): So, may I take it that the roads leading up to the barricade were public roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): They were allowed to pass. There was no restriction.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Then it must be a public road.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I think it is a matter for argument.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Do the Government recognise the distinction between public roads and other roads in the State?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Certainly.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Do the roads leading up to the barricade come under the category of public roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is to say, roads which are used by other communities as well. (*Laughter.*)

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Am I entitled to get a direct answer to the question?

PRESIDENT: You are not entitled. You are drawing him into a discussion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A resolution has been tabled for that purpose.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Do the Government recognise any distinction between the roads leading to the barricade and other roads understood to be public roads in other parts of the State?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know how that arises from the question itself.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): My question is, do the Government recognise any distinction between the Vaikam roads leading up to the barricade and other roads ordinarily known as public roads throughout the State?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): My point is whether that question arises really out of the question before the House.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid the question does not relate to the character of the roads at all.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): My question is relevant.

PRESIDENT: Your main question does not relate to the character of the roads.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The object of my question is to point out that the Police were bound to prevent a breach of the peace if the roads are public roads. It is for that purpose that I have asked that question. The whole question relates to that.

PRESIDENT: But that does not arise out of your main question, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): My question is only whether it is a public road.

PRESIDENT: I must say it does not arise out of question (*c*) and the answer to it.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether it is not the duty of the Police to prevent breach of the peace on the road?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Certainly, it is.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): How long did the disturbances continue?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think they continued for a long time. When they were obstructing, they were informed that action would be taken and certainly they yielded.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): How long did the *anti-Satyagrahis* prevent the *Satyagrahis* from going near the barricade?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I want notice of that question.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Have the Police done anything to prevent a breach of the peace between the *anti-Satyagrahis* and the *Satyagrahis*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Press Communiqué distinctly says that they ceased to do so.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The Press Communiqué does not say that.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar just a little while ago said that the *anti-Satyagrahis* were spoken to and they stopped the procession.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know Sir, whether it was on the request of the Police that the *anti-Satyagrahis* stopped their campaign against the *Satyagrahis*?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar has already said that.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I suppose that the District Magistrate and the Police would have acted together.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether the Ag. Police Commissioner was present at the time when the *anti-Satyagrahis* made disturbances?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I would refer the member to the speech made by the Police Commissioner during the general discussion on the budget. He has stated on which days he was present at the station.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Was it a fact that there was a conference of the Police officials just on the day previous to the disturbances?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not aware.

Roads round Vaikam Temple.

60. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (1) Are the Government aware that, at a meeting of caste-Hindus held at Chengannur on the 23rd Mithunam, 1099, a resolution was passed requesting them to throw open the road round the Vaikam temple to non-caste Hindus also?

(2) Have the Government received the resolutions of the meeting?

(3) If they have, will they be pleased to state what action they have taken thereon?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) The resolutions have been placed on the file along with the papers dealing with the same subject.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is that the only action which the Government propose to take in the matter?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): About what?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In answer to part (3) of my question, Government say that the resolutions have been placed on the file along with the papers dealing with the same subject. Is that the only action that the Government propose to take in regard to Vaikam affairs?

PRESIDENT: That is the only action that Government have taken so far.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): The answer is that the resolutions have been placed on the file along with the papers on the same subject. I am asking whether placing the resolutions on the file along with those papers is the only action.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is the only action so far as the persons who sent the resolutions were concerned.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is it a matter merely concerning the persons who sent the resolutions?

PRESIDENT: That is the action taken by the Government so far.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I am asking whether Government intend doing anything else than the action taken so far.

PRESIDENT: You cannot ask a question about the intentions of Government.

Anti-Satyagraha Movement at Vaikam.

61. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that an *anti-Satyagraha* movement has been started at Vaikam by a few Brahmins and other caste-Hindus and that they are molesting and preventing the *Satyagrahis* from proceeding to the barricade where they used to stand before?

(*b*) Have the Government taken any action to protect the *Satyagrahis* from the attacks of the *anti-Satyagrahis*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) It was reported that an *anti-Satyagraha* movement was started at Vaikam. There was no report of their molesting *Satyagrahis*, but they were reported to have obstructed the passage of *Satyagrahis* along the road to the west of the barricades. On the impropriety of their action being pointed out to them, the obstruction is reported to have since ceased.

(*b*) Government have no information that protection has been refused to any one that wanted it.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

Change of Policy of the Police towards the Satyagrahis at Vaikam.

62. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that some Policemen have been taking by force the *charkas* used by the *Satyagrahis* and destroying them?

(*b*) Is it true that, since Mr. Pitt, the Police Commissioner, went on leave, the attitude of the Police towards the *Satyagrahis* has visibly changed?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): (*a*) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 56. Government have no information that any *charkas* have been destroyed.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Reasons for preventing non-caste Hindus from using Roads round Vaikam Temple.

63. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which induced them to take steps to prevent non-caste Hindus from using the roads round the Vaikam temple?

(*b*) Is it because the Government recognise untouchability and unapproachability that they have taken this action?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): (*a*) and (*b*) The existence of a long-standing custom which prevents the non-caste Hindus from using the roads in question and the duty of the Government to maintain the *status quo*, especially when the proposal to depart from the long-standing custom is opposed to the religious feelings and usages of a section of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects and is likely to irritate it.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed with the discussion of demands for grants.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV—Forest.

Motion 101.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I rise to move the following:—

101. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,21,000 for removal of royal trees from forests by Government agency by Rs. 21,000.

The sum, for the reduction of which I make the motion, represents the difference between the budget estimate of 1099 and that of 1100,

The revised estimate of 1099 is Rs. 20,000 less than the budget estimate. I find, in the budget of 1100, that about Rs. 40,000 more is provided for the removal of royal trees this year. It is not clear why additional expenditure is necessary at this juncture. The Conservator of Forests in his Administration Report says "It will be seen from the statement that the quantity of timber removed by the several agencies during 1098 was far less than in 1097." This was due to the fact that there was a balance of timber remaining unsold and undelivered in the several sale and forest depôts amounting to as much as 5,26,181 cubic feet in the case of royal trees and 4,57,196 cubic feet in the case of junglewood. Reference to this large balance was also made in the Legislative Council at the time of the budget discussion in 1098. The Conservator of Forests then made a promise that, if the market for timber continued to be dull during the year, the output of timber into the depôts would be restricted. Unfortunately, the market did not show any sign of improvement and the demand for timber continued to be as poor as before during the year. It was therefore thought inadvisable to work down larger quantities of timber to the depôts. The felling of royal trees was further restricted and no contracts for the extraction of junglewood on a large scale were given. In the Memorandum explaining the details of the budget under discussion, the Financial Secretary has explained that the difference between the budget and the revised estimates of revenue in 1099 was brought about by the limitation of sales owing to the poor demand for timber. Though he at first expected better receipts from forests this year, he had to change his opinion as a result of the floods. In his speech introducing the budget, the Financial Secretary stated that the disturbance to trade and production would also affect our receipts under all the other main heads of revenue, particularly Excise, Customs and Forest. I think we can safely rely on the forecast of the Financial Secretary with regard to this matter. This year the market will be duller than in 1098 and 1097. At the end of 1097, there was a balance of 9,84,014 cubic feet of timber lying unsold. At the end of 1098, the balance lying unsold was 8,59, 420 cubic feet. Timber to the value of Rs. 8,17,592 was lying idle at the end of 1098. In addition to that, fresh timber was extracted in 1099. We do not know the exact quantity of timber sold in 1099. But we know for certain that, owing to the floods, the sale of timber must have been considerably handicapped. Usually timber is sold at the end of the year. This year it was not possible to have a roaring sale. So there is reason to believe that the balance lying idle will be much more than that of 1098. Considering the dulness of the market, I ask the House whether it is absolutely necessary to spend any more money than what was allotted in the budget of 1099 for the removal of royal trees. The Conservator of Forests has been assuring us that no more fresh timber would be extracted so long as we had a surplus stock. He was hoping in 1098 that, if Messrs. Sabnis and Co. would fulfil their contract, he would be in a position to commence further extraction. The Administration Report evidences the fact that his hope was frustrated. We had timber

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

to the value of Rs. 8 lakhs and odd lying idle at the end of 1098. We are told that in 1099 the market was dull. We expect that this year the market will be duller. Under these circumstances, I request the Conservator of Forests to reduce at least Rs. 21,000 out of the budgeted expenditure for the removal of royal trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, it is true that I had made a promise that during 1099 no extraction of royal trees on a large scale would be undertaken. As a result of it, what little we had in stock has already been sold and there is no large stock of timber in the depôts. Unless the amount, *viz.*, Rs. 1,21,000, provided in the budget is sanctioned—I had provided Rs. 1,30,000 in my budget, but the Government reduced it to Rs. 1,21,000—and if any further reduction is made, it may not be possible for the department to meet the indents of the P. W. D., the Panivakai or other departments. Mr Madhava Variar has been saying that there is a balance of eight lakhs and odd of cubic feet of timber in our depôts. He is evidently making a mistake by confusing jungle timber with royalties. The stock of royalties is so small that, unless we go in for a fresh felling on a slightly bigger scale, it may not be possible for us to meet the requirements of the various departments.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know the extent of timber, I mean royal trees, lying unsold?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Except at Alleppey and Vettikkad, there is no large stock of timber.

PRESIDENT: What about the old stock?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The old stock has been nearly disposed of. The balance available on a rough calculation would come to about 50,000 cubic feet only.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not quite understand what he meant when he said that the old stocks have been sold out.

PRESIDENT: He says he has got only 50,000 cubic feet of old stock which could not be sold on account of its condition. What about its condition?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Its condition has already been stated. It is of very poor quality. We are arranging for the sale of this stock at concession rates to the flood-affected people. There is a small balance also at Viyapuram; but considering the quantity of logs available at the beginning of 1099 the balance available now is not much. So, unless we go in for extraction of fresh logs, it may not be possible to fully meet all the demands.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know the balance left by Messrs. Sabnis & Co.?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say that very accurately. Roughly, it will be about 40,000 cubic feet.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not quite understand what he said in regard to the promise made for not cutting down further timber.

PRESIDENT: He has been saying that the old stock has been mostly sold, and that, unless new timber is extracted, it will not be possible to meet the demand of the P. W. D. and the Panivakai Departments and also other public demands. Royal trees mean teak practically.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The promise was with reference to the year 1099 and that was kept up to a very large extent. Now we are dealing with the year 1100.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What will be the probable demand of the P. W. D. and Panivakai Departments for 1100?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI. (*Conservator of Forests*): That cannot be known previously. All the same I have got a rough idea as to the demands from these two departments. The Panivakai Department may require some 50,000 cubic feet and the P. W. D. 40,000 or 50,000 cubic feet. Besides this, the demands of other departments will have also to be met. What I have said is only based on a rough calculation.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the market for timber was dull in respect of royal trees last year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes; in the beginning of the year it was dull but it improved later.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was it not better than what it used to be in the previous year? And does he expect the market would be better this year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): From the results of the sales during the last two or three months, I can almost assure the House that, if it continues like this, we can realise better value.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the rule usually followed in the felling of royal trees? Are the trees felled for the purpose of the market or for proper sylviculture and for proper preservation of forests.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have already stated, in connection with some resolution, that our extraction of royalties is mainly from private lands but, whenever we want timber of fresh quality, we go inside the reserves and have it extracted. We are not guided much by sylvicultural principles so far as private lands are concerned.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am asking a question with regard to the felling of trees from the

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forests. Does the Department arrange for the cutting of trees for sylviculture?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The allotment in the budget is for the removal of royal trees from forests by Government agency and the motion before the House is to reduce that allotment. The word 'forests' occurring therein does not mean private forests. So I put the question. Of course, I am prepared to abide by the decision of the Chair.

PRESIDENT: The wording is no doubt that; but Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has stated that the extraction of royal trees is not made from Government forests.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): So far as Government forests are concerned, are there not royal trees in them now ripe for felling? That is what I am asking.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There may be trees, but at present we are not felling them.

PRESIDENT: Why do you not answer the question whether there are trees which are ripe for being cut?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There are.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will not those trees which are ripe for cutting deteriorate in case they are allowed to remain for a long time?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Not in the least. They can afford to stand for another fifty years. There may not be growth taking place, but all the same they can remain in good condition.

For these reasons, I think that a reduction under this head will materially affect the realisation of forest revenue for this year and I hope my friend Mr. Madhava Variar will not press his motion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not press the motion.

PRESIDENT: Does the House permit Mr. Madhava Variar to withdraw his motion?

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 102.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

102. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,43,600 for Conservancy and Works by Rs. 100.

Important questions arise for discussion under the head of "Conservancy and Works." I do not, however, propose to discuss all those

questions, but shall be content with drawing attention to one or two points which appear to me to be deserving of particular notice. The important work of communications has not been attended to by the Department in spite of the fact that on the importance of communications depends reduction in the cost of extraction of forest produce. What is done for the improvement of communications is done in a haphazard manner, and neither systematically nor under any definite scheme. Unless communications are improved systematically, the cost of extraction is bound to go up. There is no standard of cost for extraction and the cost has been systematically going up, while the market for the produce has been going down. Demarcations and survey works will never come to an end. The demarcation of the Puliyara reserve has been going on, for instance, for the last 21 years! Forest survey must be co-ordinated with revenue survey. Unless this is done, the location of the forest areas will be difficult. It is doubtful whether the total area of forests really comprises the area marked out as forest.

With regard to minor forest produce, we find there has not been any increase in the receipts during the last so many years. No attempt has been made to increase the revenue from minor forest produce nor has any experiment been made to improve the revenue under this head. These are some of the questions that I propose to discuss in connection with this subject.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): My friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has been going over some of the points which have already been discussed in this House during the last budget session.

PRESIDENT: He has prominently mentioned two matters, *i. e.*, communications and minor forest produce.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In regard to communications, I told the House last time that I was not a believer in going in for extensive communications where immediate result is not to be realised. We have been doing some work however in this direction. We have spent money for blasting rocks in our principal rivers to afford greater facilities for the transport of timber and also to open up the less accessible places in the forests. A sum of Rs. 3,000 was spent last year on account of two roads and it is under contemplation to extend a third road, and to investigate the opening of another road for tapping the Shendurni forest this year.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Is there any definite scheme for improving communications in the forests?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir. We want money only for the schemes which we are going to take up where the result is immediate and do not want to spend with the idea of getting the result at a later date. The cost of extraction will by and by decrease as we open these roads.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai points out that the Puliyara demarcation has been pending for the last so many years and that no decision has been arrived at. It was to finish such works that I moved the Government to appoint a special officer and Government have now provided for a separate Forest Settlement Officer for four months.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know how much money has been spent during the last five years in opening out forests, *i. e.*, on communications?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say off-hand. I will have to collect the information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are we to understand that no money is spent on communications?

PRESIDENT: That was not what he said. He was saying that the policy was to spend on communications for the purpose of extraction.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Not for the immediate result?

PRESIDENT: That is the immediate result sought.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it that the communications are merely for the transport of timber?

PRESIDENT: That is all that he is primarily interested in.

MR. T K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I take it that he is interested only in the immediate result which according to him would be the forest revenue?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That does not arise.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): That is for the President to rule and not for the member.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No; we are interested in getting a sustained revenue from the forest and for that we are not justified in opening roads which will consume a lot of money, and at the same time will not bring in any revenue.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask whether roads are not necessary in the interior forests to enable high officers of the Department, like the Conservator of Forests, to move about more frequently in those areas?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not possible, unless we spend a lot of money, to take cars inside the forests. Ordinarily all the forest officers can do inspection work walking and for their convenience it is not necessary that money should be spent on costly roads.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): For how many days in 1099 did the Conservator of Forests remain about twenty miles away from any existing road?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Some working idea will do.

PRESIDENT: How many forests are there which are twenty miles away from places where there are roads?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): My idea is not to open roads in far off places at enormous cost merely for inspection purposes.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question. His question is whether roads are not required for such areas for the purpose of facilitating inspection work.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): At present we have got all the necessary roads.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The information that I want is not forthcoming.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It may be thirty days.

Mr. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether the Department is maintaining all the roads opened by the coupe contractors?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In some places there may not be any necessity to maintain such roads, because there may be no work going on.

Mr. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Are there not such roads maintained by the Department?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If it is considered useful, the road is maintained, but not otherwise.

Mr. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether it is not possible to maintain all of them?

PRESIDENT: He has given the answer that it is not necessary to maintain all of them.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to minor forest produce, about the development of which there cannot be any difference of opinion, we are doing whatever is possible. Recently, however, Government had to correct the contract with Messrs. the Hind Candle Works.

PRESIDENT: You are dealing with the term in its restricted meaning. It includes all forest produce except timber.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I was referring only to gall-nuts and such other things.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know why the contractors abandoned the contract?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Because it did not pay. They entered into a contract for twenty years and they

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were paying Rs. 5,000 every year, but they could not collect produce for Rs. 50 from the forest. The contractors were in Bombay and their solicitors were paying the amount for the last nine years or so. Now I understand the senior partner of the firm died and the junior partners are quarrelling, with the result that, though notices were sent to the company, no reply has been received. That is why the contract was cancelled.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What is the percentage of cost for the extraction of timber with reference to the total expenditure?

MR R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Thirty-nine or forty.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What was the percentage about five years ago?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say off-hand. I may say that five years ago we had the coupe sale system.

MR N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Was the cost greater or less?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Under the coupe sale system, no expenditure would be incurred and the cost of extraction would be nothing.

PRESIDENT: What about the minor forest produce?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If by minor forest produce Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai refers to gall-nuts, etc., it is not possible to give much hope of development. With regard to bamboos, *eeta*, etc., we have already given a contract for the utilisation of *eeta* for match-making in the Northern Division. In the Shencottah Division, there is also *eeta* in extensive areas and we have investigated the possibility of utilising it for pulp and we expect some sort of result; but I cannot promise anything to the House.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether it is possible to develop the *kodappala* oil?

MR R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is another thing about which also some erroneous impression exists. The quantity of *kodappala* oil that can be extracted is very small. The trees are available only in the Shendurni forest. It does not occur anywhere else. It is also not an oil which can be extracted always. It is a disintegration product of the tree and it is only the detoriorated trees that give the oil.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether any scientific measures have been evolved to develop this?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): When boring is made right to the heart of the tree, if there is oil in the tree, it

oozes out and is collected. It is a crude system and the total quantity of oil collected in a year is about thirty tins. After all we cannot do much with that.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether forests other than the Shendurni forest have been exploited for this purpose?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the work of the Utilisation Officer?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He has been trying to find markets for our timber and other produce; he has investigated the possibility of a ropeway in the High Ranges as also the utilisation of reeds in Shencottah.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): Has he submitted any report during his term of office?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): Are copies of the report available?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If the member wants it can be made available.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has the officer turned out any profitable work?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has any requisition been made from any quarter with regard to some of our own forest products exhibited at Wembley?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There was a letter received from Messrs. Howard and Bros. They wanted some blackwood of a special quality and dimension.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That is the only enquiry so far?

PRESIDEN[illegible] far.

MR. N. RA[illegible]HNA PILL[illegible] (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether any [illegible]ment has been conducted in regard to any minor produce?

PRESIDENT: Yes; in regard to the possibility of using *eeta* for matches and paper pulp.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഈററ കൺട്രാക്ട് ആർക്കെങ്കിലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ ? ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആർക്കാണ് ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In the Shencottah and Quilon Divisions separate contracts are given for the collection of *eeta*. In the Northern Division there is no contract given but passes are given to people to collect this material for the manufacture

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

of mats. There are areas still where ordinary people cannot collect *eeta*. Here the collection of *eeta* is leased out to the Malabar Match Manufacturing Company.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും പാസ്സ് കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനാർക്കാണധികാരം?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ആരും പാസ്സുകൊടുക്കാറില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അധികാരമുള്ളവർ പാസ്സുകൊടുക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ-

PRESIDENT: He says that no such authority has been given.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഏതെങ്കിലും ആളിനു പാസ്സു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, do you want any other information in respect of this subject?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 103.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

103. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,43,600 for Conservancy and Works by Rs. 100.

Motions 104 and 105.

PRESIDENT: There are two identical motions, both for the reduction of Rs. 1,500. They are Nos. 104 and 105. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai may move his motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following:—

104. To reduce the allot[illegible]rchase of uniform by Rs. 1,500.

I have sent up this motion with a vi[illegible] ascertain whether a substantial portion of the amount could not be reduced. I find from the budget estimate for the last year that the amount provided was only Rs. 1,000. On the other hand, this year the provision is for Rs. 2,500. I also wish to know whether the purchase of the uniform is by contract or whether it is directly purchased from outside firms or from Travancore. It is for this purpose that I have sent up this motion.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, it is quite true that the figure for the last year was Rs. 1,000 while for this year the amount provided is Rs. 2,500. There are 291 guards and 62 foresters. According to the rules, they have to be provided with one set of uniform annually and the cost has to be defrayed by Government,

The average cost of uniform for a guard comes to Rs. 9-as.-8 and for 291 guards Rs. 2,500 is provided. We had not been supplying our men with uniform for so many years. Occasionally, as when a Governor of Madras visits the place, we provide them with uniform just to make them look smart. For several years no attempt was made to clothe the whole staff.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Why were not these people clothed properly for the last several years?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Because nobody insisted on it and no adequate provision was made in the budget.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): That is no reason why they should not be clothed properly.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am not responsible.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am not seeking to fix the responsibility on the present Conservator. I ask why the Forest Department did not move the Government to sanction such amounts as would enable the subordinates to be clothed properly.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If it is not divulging a secret, I have been pressing the Government every year for the necessary amount for the purpose, but a small sum alone is sanctioned every year.

PRESIDENT: Perhaps the matter was not properly explained to the Government till now.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Last year the provision made was only Rs. 1,000. It was not sufficient for the purpose. We had to divert a sum of Rs. 2,000 from the amount allotted for "Conservancy and Works." With this amount we have provided one set of uniform. Recently, towards the end of last year, Government passed new rules with regard to uniform. Under these new rules, we have to supply foresters too with uniform and half the cost will have to be met by the Government. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai asked how the supply was made, whether it was through contract or by direct purchase. The local contractor's supply was bad. We gave the contract last year to the Carnatic Mills and we found that the stuff supplied was cheap and of good quality and there was a saving of three annas for a set of uniform. Every one who has seen it has appreciated it and the total saving was considerable. The amount of Rs. 2,500 is absolutely necessary to supply our men with one set of uniform this year also.

PRESIDENT: Are not the pugrees being manufactured locally?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes; the yarn for turban cloth is obtained and the turban is made here. The Textile Expert is dyeing the yarn and getting the turban woven.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether the cloth itself may not be made locally through the Industries Department?

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: He says it is *khaki*.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not possible to get the correct *khaki* colour here. Under these circumstances, I request the House will be so good as to sanction this grant.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Cannot the colour be changed into green?

PRESIDENT: The pugrees are going to be green. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, do you withdraw your motion?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 105, which stood in the name of Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai, was not moved.

Motion 106.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I rise to move the following motion:—

106. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for rewards.

This allotment was not in existence in the budgets for the last two years. I think this is a new item and the Department has borrowed this system from the Police Department where, in more places than one, they demand rewards unnecessarily. This system also I am going to oppose. Anyhow, provision is made on page 48 of the *Budget* for a sum of Rs. 200 for rewards. I do not know for what it is meant.

PRESIDENT: You mean Rs. 300?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): A provision of Rs. 200 on page 48 of the *Budget*.

PRESIDENT: Does it relate to the Forest Department?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*). Yes.

PRESIDENT: That is a different item. We are now dealing with 6 B—Forests—Direction.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In the Forest departmental budget provision is made for rewards in two places.

PRESIDENT: You have already got a motion tabled in regard to that.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): On page 48 of the *Budget*, there is another item of Rs. 200 for rewards. I submit that it is unnecessary. Hence I move this motion.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The amount of Rs. 300 provided under rewards under 'Direction' is for the payment of rewards to be sanctioned by the Conservator of Forests to mahouts who successfully capture elephants, to persons who bring information with regard to forest offences, and to subordinates who display

special aptitude for work. Recently, some cases happened in which the Police had also helped our men in connection with the floods. Before this time we were not having a separate provision for this item. This year we are putting it as a separate item.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Under what head?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Under contingencies. Now the amount under contingencies has been correspondingly reduced. This is only a new head and the amount is being expended every year.

With regard to the amount of Rs. 200, it is for rewards to be given by Divisional Forest Officers. When the amount is distributed to all the six Divisions, it will come to Rs. 30 to each Division and that is not much.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the amount given as rewards from contingencies last year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not exactly remember that. If Mr. Hoogewerf wants the information, I shall give it later.

PRESIDENT: Roughly?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Roughly about Rs. 200. I hope my friend Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai will now withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: It is only a change in nomenclature. That is what Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai explains. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, do you press your motion?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 107 and 108.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

107. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 300 for rewards by Rs. 200.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

108. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23,240 from Direction by Rs. 100.

Motion 109.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

109. To omit the allotment of Rs. 10,374 for temporary establishment for "Conservancy and Works."

Sir, I have tabled this motion merely for the purpose of ascertaining what the temporary establishment is for and what the kind of work is that the temporary establishment is doing. It is to get this information that I have tabled it.

[President.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, last year I have explained that we keep a temporary establishment just to prevent the staff under pensionable appointments increasing. Under this temporary establishment, we include the surveyors and lascars, watchers in plantations and depôts, fire-watchers, the sandal plantation watchers and such like. It is hard to keep them under temporary establishment because the establishment is being continued every year. But, if the House will allow me, I shall make the establishment permanent.

PRESIDENT: You have got to move the matter separately. You have to address Government and explain the necessity for making the establishment permanent.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is practically a permanent establishment but it is kept temporary in order not to add to the pension charges.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know for how many years this establishment has been maintained?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This has been maintained for very many years.

PRESIDENT: Is it not subject to fluctuation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Except in one or two minor instances there is no change.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What was the additional establishment last year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There was no addition to this establishment.

PRESIDENT: The amount spent you will find in the budget.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The budget does not show what amount was provided for last year.

PRESIDENT: What was the provision for last year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The accounts for 1099 have not yet been closed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the genesis for this temporary establishment?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): To keep them when wanted and then send them away when not required.

PRESIDENT: It is a sort of training ground. You keep them there till they are trained.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If it is absolutely necessary, why not make it permanent?

PRESIDENT: The Conservator thinks that it is necessary and he is going to move Government in this matter separately.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I wish to say a word on this subject. I find the establishment is for conservancy and works. It is well known that a person who feels that next year he may be thrown out of work may not bestow that amount of attention which a permanent man would. The Conservator of Forests states that, from the time of the inception of the Forest Department, the temporary establishment has been in existence.

PRESIDENT: He said that it has been in existence for very many years.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Yes, he said so. At any rate, it has been in existence for very many years. I think it is necessary that the staff should be made permanent. In the first place, when a low-paid man feels that he has got a permanent lien on the Government service and can look forward to a time when he will get a pension, he will take greater interest in Government work, especially in a work like conservancy which is very important so far as the permanent interests of the State are concerned. If you have a temporary staff, the Rangers and other officers may be put to sore temptation; the departmental officers would appoint people when they want and when there is an unspent sum at the end of the year notwithstanding the vigilant examination of accounts by the accounts department. There may be difficulties which may have to be slurred over. It may be that names may even appear in the lists of such employees, but the persons may not be in existence. I feel I must tell the Council from the conversation that I have had with some of the temporary officers—I do not say the temporary Forest officers—that even the Assistant Tahsildars, those who have been figuring so prominently in this Council for the last two orthree years,—even they would have done more work if they had not felt that this year or the next their service would be dispensed with. If that is the case with a graduate who gets Rs 75—100 monthly, the condition of a man who is paid Rs. 7 or Rs. 10 for menial work inside the forest requires very little description. If the staff is necessary, that ought to be made permanent. The Conservator, in the course of the discussion, said that he would make the staff permanent if the House agrees to that. There is no direct contract between the Conservator and the non-official members of the Council. If the Conservator believes strongly on that point, he must address Government. If the Council thinks that the proposal is beneficial, it will sanction it. The argument "if the Council is prepared to sanction it" cannot be repeated.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I entirely agree with Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai in what he has said on this subject. I think that this system of having temporary hands does not make for efficiency of service. The temporary hands engaged will not feel any responsibility. In this as well as in the P. W. D. there are a number of temporary hands and the temporary man is not sure of the next day or the next hour. So he makes hay when the sun shines and the rain falls, and

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

makes the best of the opportunity for the little time he is in office. Hence it may be on the score of want of responsibility that this temporary system should be abolished except in very exceptional circumstances. If there is absolute necessity for the temporary hands, the sooner they are absorbed in the permanent establishment the better.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai has brought forward a proposition to the House—

PRESIDENT : It is only a remark.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) :—which should not be passed over. There are certain aspects of the question which have to be borne in mind before the House can form an opinion regarding the suggestion put forward by Mr. Velu Pillai. There are in every department what are known as contingent establishments, like sweepers, watchers, etc., and the temporary work establishment in the Forest Department is more or less of the same kind as the contingent establishments I referred to. The object of keeping a work establishment in the Forest Department, as in the P. W. D., is to enable Government to expand and contract according to necessity.

PRESIDENT : The temporary establishment in the Forest Department is indispensable.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : It has always been non-pensionable. If we were to make all these appointments pensionable, that would mean heavy increase in pension and leave charges.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : Have you got any men permanent? I think the Forest Department must have needed for a long time a certain number of surveyors for working in emergencies. Why should not the permanent requirements be recruited permanently and the additional requirements only temporarily?

PRESIDENT : I do not think the Forest Department requires surveyors permanently. It can borrow whenever it wants from the Revenue Department.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : I understand that it is a case of continuing the men for a long time as temporary in order to deprive them of their pension.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : That does not seem to be correct. These appointments do not probably deserve pension. The surveyors' case may be specially considered and the matter set right. If we make the temporary establishment of the Forest Department pensionable, then in the P. W. D. also such establishment will have to be made permanent. But the finances of the State will not allow the same being done.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Is the word 'temporary' synonymous with the word 'non-pensionable'?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Temporary means not substantive. A person is entitled to pension if his appointment is substantive and permanent.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the swelling of the pension amount is the sole reason that would deter him very strongly from adopting the proposition.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That will be one imperative aspect which I will specially consider.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. George the comparative responsibility of the personal peons in the Account Office and the watchers in the Forest Department to prevent fires?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The peon has considerable responsiblity and the watcher has not much.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has not the watcher in charge of fire protection work sufficient responsibility?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of opinion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 110.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I rise to move the following motion:—

110. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,800 for travelling allowance to executive and protective staff by Rs. 3,800.

Sir, the actual amount expended under this head during 1096 was Rs. 13,970. For 1097 also it was Rs. 13,000 and odd and during the year 1098 it was only Rs. 11,756. So I think the expenditure under this head is less than what it was in the previous years. This year it appears that it has been budgeted for Rs. 15,800. I do not know why there should be Rs. 4,000 more than the actual expenditure of 1098. In the previous year, what was budgeted was not spent. So I put it at Rs. 12,000 and I would request Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai to accept the cut proposed.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, this is also a case of misunderstanding. We have 27 Rangers, 23 Deputy Rangers and 63 Foresters. They have to be paid permanent travelling allowance, the Rangers at Rs. 25 each, the Deputy Rangers at Rs. 10 and the Foresters at Rs. 6, Rs. 7 and Rs. 8 each. The permanent travelling allowance of these people alone would amount to Rs. 16,384.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Is it fixed travelling allowance?

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. They are expected to travel for a certain number of days in a month.

PRESIDENT: How do you account for the short expenditure?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to the short expenditure, I may point out that the amount provided in the budget was found inadequate and we were diverting funds from other heads.

PRESIDENT: That does not explain the thing. Why should you incur short expenditure and then divert?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We find that the allotments were not enough and we had to exceed that allotment and so we were obliged to meet the expenditure from other sources.

MR. C.P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I call his attention to the fact that it is not so? I understand Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai to say that a small amount was budgeted and a larger amount was spent. In 1096 alone that was the case. But in 1097 only Rs. 13,400 was spent. In 1098, it was only Rs. 11,756. That is what I see from the figures in the budget.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some of the Foresters and some of the Deputy Rangers were put in charge of the depôts, when they are not given permanent travelling allowance.

PRESIDENT: What he says is that you are not incurring extra expenditure, but you are effecting a saving.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot explain it now. I do not know where my friend got the figures from.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): From the budget.

PRESIDENT: There is only one way in which the expenditure can be less than the budgeted allotment, although the travelling allowances are fixed. The actual travelling allowance payable may be much less than the estimate. Or there may be leave vacancies to which subsitutes may not be appointed. I think the figures are all right. The statement you made that you are exceeding your allotment is correct.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, but we are trying to adjust it otherwise.

MR. C.P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): The budgeted amount was Rs. 15,000 for 1097 and the revised estimate for the same year was only Rs. 13,500. Similarly for 1098, the budgeted amount was Rs. 14,000 and the revised estimate was the same. For 1098, the revised estimate was Rs. 14,000 but the actual amount spent was only Rs. 11,756.

PRESIDENT : Probably due to leave vacancies not being filled.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : If we want to meet the actual amount payable for fixed T. A., we want Rs. 17,000; but we manage to put some people in charge of the depôts and effect a saving thereby.

PRESIDENT : But that does not clash with what Mr. Kochukunju Pillai says. His strong point is that, during the past three years, you were not able to spend the whole budget allotment. Then, why cannot you make the allotment less ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I will look into the budget figures. I think there is something wrong in the amount. I require the whole allotment provided.

PRESIDENT : I think you can accept a small cut, say, Rs. 1,800.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No, Sir, I cannot.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : Is it due to shorter expenditure under travelling allowance that this saving was effected in previous years in the tempory establishment ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No, the permanent travelling allowance is the same; it is fixed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : There must be something wrong somewhere, and the sooner he accepts the cut the better.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If we accept the cut, we will not be able to pay the staff the permanent travelling allowance.

PRESIDENT : You must be able to explain the difference in the figures; otherwise you must be prepared to reduce.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This is the total amount that we want in order to pay the permanent travelling allowance. Then how are we to reduce it? I will go into the figures and see whether Mr. Kochukunju Pillai's figures are correct.

PRESIDENT: You want this motion to stand over ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): For the present, I will accept a cut, if he wants it. But I know, as a matter of fact, that the whole allotment proposed is necessary. I am responsible for the figures of this year; I am not responsible for those of the previous years. If Mr. Kochukunju Pillai wants a cut, I will accept it.

PRESIDENT : Of course he wants it, that is why he has moved the motion.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : What I think is that there may be some mistake in the figures for the previous years that he gave.

PRESIDENT : You may accept a smaller cut. I will suggest Rs. 1,800. Mr. Kochukunju Pillai, do you accept it ?

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Yes, I will accept Rs. 1,800 and I would amend my motion accordingly.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): For the present, I will accept it. I shall verify the figures.

PRESIDENT: If you find that your figures are correct, you will have to come to the House for a supplementary grant.

The question that Rs. 1,800 be reduced from the allotment of Rs. 15,800 for travelling allowance to executive and protective staff was accepted by the House.

Motions 111 to 113.

The following motions were not moved —

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

111. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,800 for travelling allowance of executive and protective staff by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

112. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for travelling allowance of other establishment by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

113. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for fees to vakils.

Motion 114.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

114. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,14,156 for Forest establishment by Rs. 100.

ഈ മോഷനിൽ എനിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി പറയാനുള്ളത് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ഭരണത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന കാണിക്കാരുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയെപ്പററിയാണ്.

ഇംഗ്ലീഷുവർഷം ൧൯൧൧ ഡിസംബർ ൧൪-നു ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള റൂൾസിൽ ൯-ാം വകുപ്പിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"All produce of the land cultivated by hillmen in accordance with the foregoing Rules shall be the property of the hillmen and may be disposed of as they think fit, except food grains and tobacco which shall not be sold or taken out of the Government Forest or Reserve, without the written permission of the Divisional Forest Officer."

എന്നാൽ ൧൩-ാം വകുപ്പിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"The hillmen shall deal only with licensed traders and at their own settlements."

കാണിക്കാരുടെ പ്രയത്നഫലങ്ങളെ അവരുടെ സ്വന്തവകയായും അവർക്കു ബോധിച്ചപോലെയും വിനിയോഗിക്കാവുന്നതായി അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൯-ാം വകുപ്പിനെ ൧൩-ാം വകുപ്പുകൊണ്ട് അസ്ഥിരപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. പരസ്പരവിരുദ്ധമായുള്ള ഈ വകുപ്പുകൾ കാണി

ക്കാക്കു വലുതായ ദോഷത്തെ ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. അവർ വേലചെയ്തുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ വനംവകുപ്പിലെ ലൈസൻസികൾക്കല്ലാതെ കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു നിർബന്ധിക്കയും അതുപോലെ അവരോടു സാമാനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ ഏർപ്പാടനുസരിച്ച കാണിക്കാരുടെ സാമാനങ്ങൾക്കു നാലിലൊരുഭാഗം വിലകിട്ടാതെ അവർ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നു.

ഇതോടുകൂടി കാണിക്കാരുടെ പ്രയത്നഫലങ്ങളെ അവക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെ അനുഭവിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരുന്നു. അതിനു കാരണഭൂതന്മാർ ഫാറസ്ററു ഗാർഡന്മാരാണ്. കാണിക്കാർ വേലചെയ്തുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങളെ അവൎക്കു തോന്നിയ മാതിരി ബലേന കൈവശപ്പെടുത്തുകയും അതിലേക്ക് അവരെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കയും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു.

കാണിക്കാരെപ്പററി മറെറാരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളത് വനം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കീഴ്സിൽബന്തികൾ അവരെ ദേഹോപദ്രവം ഏല്പിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനെപ്പററിയാണ്. ൧൪-ാം വകുപ്പാണ് അതിലേക്കു സഹായിക്കുന്നത്. അതിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:—

"The hillmen shall work for the Forest Department, whenever called upon to do so, at prescribed rates of wages, such rates being fixed by the Divisional Forest Officer with the previous sanction of the Conservator, for three years at a time, calculated with reference to the wages paid during the preceding three years and the current market rates."

ഈ വകുപ്പു വായിക്കുന്നവൎക്ക് അതിൽ വലുതായ ന്യായരഹിതതയുണ്ടെന്നോ, കാണിക്കാൎക്കു വലുതായ സങ്കടത്തിന് അവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നോ തോന്നുന്നതല്ല നിയമത്തെ നടത്തുന്നതിൽ ഇവിടെ മററു സംഗതികളിൽ സാധാരണ കണ്ടുവരാറുള്ള ഔചിത്യക്കുറവ് ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നു. തേക്കുകൃഷി, തേക്കുവിത്തു മുതലായ വിത്തുകൾ ശേഖരിക്കുക, ബൌണ്ടറിവെട്ടുക, മുതലായ ജോലികൾ ഫാറസ്ററുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കാണിക്കാരെക്കൊണ്ടാണ് ചെയ്യിച്ചുവരുന്നത്. കാണിക്കാരുടെ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾക്കായി കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്ന കാലങ്ങളിലാണ് ഫാറസ്റ്റുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുവക ജോലികളും അവർ ചെയ്യാൻ നിർബന്ധിതരായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ആ കാലങ്ങളിൽ അവരിൽ സ്ത്രീപുരുഷന്മാർ ഉൾപ്പെടെ ആബാലവൃദ്ധം ജോലിക്കു വരണമെന്നു നിർബന്ധിക്കയും, അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ അവരുടെ സ്വന്തജോലികൾ ചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരുന്നു. ഇതിനാൽ അവർ വലുതായ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽപെട്ടു കഷ്ടപ്പെടാൻ ഇടയായിത്തീരുന്നു. തേക്കുകൃഷിക്കായി കാണിക്കാരെക്കൊണ്ടു വേലചെയ്യിക്കു

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

മ്പോൾ കാലത്തും വൈകുന്നേരവും അവരിൽ ഓരോരുത്തൎക്കും ആഹാരത്തിലേക്ക് അരി കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതല്ലാതെ അവൎക്ക് ന്യായമായ കൂലികൾ കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അറിവ്. ഫാറസ്റ്റ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും അവൎക്ക് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കൂലികൾ വളരെ കുറവാണ്. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം തേക്കുകൃഷിയിൽ വലുതായ ചിലവുകൾ വരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി അവരുടെ കൂലി കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അങ്ങിനെ കുറവായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കൂലികൾപോലും കാണിക്കാൎക്ക് കിട്ടാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇതിലേക്കു പ്രധാനകുറ്റക്കാർ ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഗാർഡന്മാർതന്നെയാണ്. ഫാറസ്റ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്വാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത വിധം സുഖക്കേടായികിടക്കുന്ന സ്ത്രീപുരുഷന്മാർ ജോലിക്കു വന്നുചേരാതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അവരെ ഗാർഡന്മാർ നീചമായവിധം ദേഹോപദ്രവങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു.

ഈ സംഗതികളെ പുറത്തു പറയാൻ അവർ വളരെ ഭയപ്പെടുന്നു. ഈ വിവരങ്ങളെല്ലാം അവരിൽനിന്നും ഞാൻ നേരിട്ട് അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അവർ എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾതന്നെ ഈ വിവരങ്ങൾ അവർ പറഞ്ഞതായി ഗാർഡന്മാരെ അറിയിക്കരുതെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടിയായിരുന്നു. കാണിക്കാൎക്കു കൺസർവേറ്ററേയോ, ഡിവിഷൻ ആഫീസറന്മാരേയോ, റേഞ്ചറന്മാരേയോ ഭയമില്ല. ഗാർഡന്മാരെ അവർ അതിയായി ഭയപ്പെടുന്നു. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു ഗാർഡന്മാർ കാണിക്കാരെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുവരുന്നതിന്റെ പരിമാണം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ. ഈ സ്ഥിതികളെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി അവൎക്കു രക്ഷയുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടകാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. പതിതസമുദായങ്ങളെ ഉയർത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിന് എല്ലാവരും ശ്രമിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ ഈ കാലത്തു കാണിക്കാരെ മനുഷ്യരായി ഗണിക്കണമെന്നും അവരോടു മനുഷ്യസ്വഭാവത്തോടുകൂടി പെരുമാറണമെന്നും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർമെന്റു നിർബന്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളു.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I second the motion. I think the hillmen and the hillwomen of Travancore are greatly indebted to Mr. Kumara Pillai for having brought before this House their cause. I have some experience of them myself. They are simple people, innocent, very timid and very much afraid of Government officers. Whatever Government officers do is law to them. I remember that, as an Excise Officer, I went into the interior of the forests. The forest subordinates had issued a mandate to the hillmen to collect honey from the surrounding

places, and a big quantity was collected. I went to the scene, saw the quantity and restored it to the poor fellows. The alleged vagaries of the forest guards and others are, I think, true, from my own experience. I would call the attention of the Government and of Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai to put down these vagaries.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, Mr. Kumara Pillai has stood up for a righteous cause and I can very well understand his moral indignation when he told us that the forest subordinates are harassing and plundering the hillmen. If specific facts are placed before the Government, they will have to institute a proper enquiry at once, because justice which is being given to all communities cannot be denied to the hillmen.

But Mr. Kumara Pillai has raised certain points which I for one am unable to accept. For example, if the working of the rules which have been passed by the Government and which he concedes to be salubrious—if the working of the rules is not properly done, owing to the wickedness or the cupidity of subordinate officers, that is a different matter. That is sufficient reason for instituting an enquiry into the conduct of the Forest officers. Now, I certainly appreciate the sentiment that hillmen should be treated as human beings. I do not think, Sir, there is any absolute standard with regard to the minimum comfort of a human being. We who live in the plains are in certain matters very much worse than the hillmen. The hillmen can enjoy the splendours of isolated forest life (*Laughter*); we have to live in cities which are congested; we have not got good drinking water, we have not got good air and we cannot feast our eyes on the glory of the mountains. It is for the hillmen to consider what is the amount of money that they could get for their products. Many hillmen may consider trinkets more valuable than money; some may value tobacco more, perhaps, than half a sack of rice. The amount of money cannot be the same because the purchasing power varies in different places. For example, with the money one has to pay for a bunch of plantains here, one can buy a better bunch in the hills. Therefore, the argument that the remuneration to be paid by the Forest Department should be the same as that given for similar work in cities and towns—that argument cannot carry conviction to me. I do not mean to say that these people are paid as well as they ought to be. But you cannot forget this main consideration that they are given some kind of paternal treatment by the Government. The ordinary man, if he ventures to squat in the forests, will not be allowed to do so. These hillmen are there by the leave and license of the Government. They are required for certain purposes, because they alone can do that work. And so long as there is no articulate complaint from them that they want more money, I do not think we shall be justified in taking up the question, because, if we pay them the remuneration given to other people, another member of the House may bring in a proposal that, once equality of wages is established as a ruling principle, the hillmen may not be allowed to live in hill-tracts. I am basing my conclusions on the data furnished by Mr. Kumara Pillai.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

If Mr. Kumara Pillai says that the rules are wrong and require rectification, I am certainly at one with him. But if the rules are satisfactory I do not think that we shall be justified in going into the philosophy of the question and considering the difficulty of the people and the economic aspects of the remuneration that is to be given to these hillmen. All the same, the Forest officers should be ordered not to interfere with the rights which the Government have guaranteed to those people. It is certainly painful that, when a hillman plants a plantain tree and a good bunch is forthcoming, the guard goes and says: "This is for *Yajamanan*, this is for *Swami* and this is for *Sahib*." That might exist at all times. But that is a fact which is disclosed not merely in the history of the Forest Department, but in the history of other departments as well. The forest subordinate molesting the hillman is not different from a policeman molesting a man in the plains. I am not speaking of isolated mischief; but I am speaking on the motion so that the Government may take some steps to prevent the fleecing of people by officers who are clothed with brief authority by the Government, which authority they use to the detriment of the poor population.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I must also tell the House what I knew of the *kanis* when I had occasion to inspect Madatturai in connection with a forest committee. When we were there, we paid visits to all their abodes. The allegation made by Mr. Kumara Pillai that the forest subordinates have been taking away the lion's share of the produce of the work of these *kanis* is perfectly true. I know that the information is quite reliable. I further found that the paddy fields that were under cultivation were being handed over for cultivation to other men living adjacent to the forests. I made an enquiry into the causes of such a state of affairs. I was told that these people under instruction from forest authorities were obliged to do so. Anyhow the profit that could have been made out of these paddy lands is not going to these *kanis*. From this state of affairs under which these *kanis* live, it is evident that the guards and other men to whom the interests of these *kanis* are entrusted do not bestow that attention on their well-being which is intended by the Government and by the Department. One other point also I wish to mention. When we went to one or two huts of these *kanis*, we found that all the people there suffering from syphylis or some bad disease of that sort. Of course Mr. Raman Pillai, the Assistant Conservator, looked into the matter and wrote to obtain the aid of a medical officer. On further enquiry, I found that a medical officer went to the place and treated them. I came across many other pitiable circumstances about these *kanis*. In fact they are not cultivating all the lands that they were cultivating formerly, solely for the reason that they do not get the fruit of what they cultivate.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Kochukunju Pillai whether these hillmen are not nomadic?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Yes; they are, to some extent.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) Sir, I am thankful to Mr. Kumara Pillai and the other gentlemen for the new information they have given me. I often come in contact with these hillmen and I have several times asked them if they had any complaints.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai whether he has questioned the hillmen in the absence of his subordinates?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Personally I may say that nobody is more interested in them than I am. But on account of some fear of the Conservator of Forests, perhaps they might not have said all that they would have said to other persons.

The information the members have furnished is quite new to me. The rules are framed for the benefit of the hillmen. There is nothing to prevent them from taking the produce and selling it in the market.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): The rule is to the effect that the hillmen shall deal only with licensed traders and at their own settlements.

PRESIDENT: It does not clash with what Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai says. The rule only says that these people shall take their produce and sell them at the market.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Our idea is that all men should not be allowed to enter into the forests and to have trade relationship with the hillmen.

PRESIDENT: I think that those rules require clearing up.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഇപ്പോൾ ലൈസൻസുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാർ വേറെആരും അവിടെ പോയി സാമാനം വാങ്ങാൻ സമ്മതിക്കയില്ല. ഈ റൂൾസ് ഇങ്ങനെ ഉള്ളതു കൊണ്ട് അവർ മുഖേന അല്ലാതെ വില്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു വിരോധിക്കുന്നു. അവരുടെ സാമാനങ്ങൾ ലൈസൻസുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളു എന്നുവരുന്നതിനാൽ ന്യായമായ വില കിട്ടിവരുന്നില്ല. കച്ചവടക്കാർക്ക് ഇഷ്ടമുള്ളതു കൊടുത്താൽ മതി എന്നനില ആയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That point will be enquired into. If it is found that the licenced traders take advantage of the ignorance of the hillmen, we will remedy their grievance.

PRESIDENT: What Mr. Kumara Pillai refers to is the apparent inconsistency of the rules.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That will be enquired into.

There is a rate of wages prescribed for hillmen's labour. When the hillmen are taken to other places away from their settlements they

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

come almost with empty hands; they have to be fed, and they have to be provided with other things; some of them consume opium and they have to be provided with that. The rate allowed is six annas; and if after meeting these expenses there is not much left to be given to them, probably the Department is not to blame. Mr. Kumara Pillai might say that there is pilfering. I am not able to say anything definitely in regard to that; but the balance cannot surely be much.

In regard to the treatment of these people, Mr. Kochukunju Pillai was saying that the paddy lands intended for them were being cultivated by others. That is also a new information. When the Swampy Areas Committee recommended that certain areas should be disafforested, I wrote to the Government that these areas should be set apart exclusively for hillmen and the Government accepted my recommendation and have set apart about half a dozen areas solely for their benefit.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether he recommended lands other than those required by the *kanis* being set apart?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We have reserved some lands exclusively for the use of the *kanis*, and we have been doing everything in our power to help them. The cases of syphilitic disease which Mr. Kochukunju Pillai referred to were cases of yaws. We addressed Government about this and the Darbar Physician was kind enough to depute a medical officer. Some of the hillmen have improved under the treatment, and as the Special Officer said that no more treatment was necessary, he was sent back.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask if Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai is aware that the medical officer at Nedumangad has been injecting a medicine for yaws on *kani* patients?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not know. I do not profess to be a doctor.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I know he is not a doctor. I saw this in several cases at the Nedumangad hospital. May I know whether Mr. Hilkiah has been injecting a medicine for yaws.

PRESIDENT: The orders of the Government were that all those who required treatment after the special officer was withdrawn should go to the Government hospitals. Perhaps under those orders the Nedumangad medical officer is injecting some medicine.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): On our recommendation several schools have been opened in the forest for hillmen and recently permission was granted to some of the missionaries living at Kulasekharam to open another school for the hillmen and to do useful work among them. When the *kanies* expressed a desire to go and settle permanently outside the forest, I made a recommendation that

they might be permitted to do so, and Government sanctioned the proposal and they are now treated as a depressed class and given lands free. From these, it will be seen that, so far as we are concerned, we are doing everything possible to alleviate their conditions. If there is a hitch in the rules and if the rules are being badly followed, the matter will be looked into. I am thankful to Mr. Kumara Pillai for the information which he has given me and I shall take the earliest opportunity to enquire into the matter.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): എനിക്കു കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നുംതന്നെ പറയാനില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ ധനകോടിപ്പിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു പോലെ നടത്തണമെന്നു മാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. അദ്ദേഹം ഇതിനെപ്പററി അന്വേഷിക്കയും ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള കഷ്ടതകളിൽ നിന്നും അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്യാമെന്നു വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ പ്രവൃത്തിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻകൂടി അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Then, Mr. Kumara Pillai, you withdraw your motion?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Yes, Sir; I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 115 to 119.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

115. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,14,156 for Forest Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

116. To reduce the allotment of Rs 7,700 for Forest School for Guards by Rs. 2,000.

PRESIDENT: There are three motions relating to one matter. I find motions Nos. 118 and 119, which are identical, are for the entire omission of the allotment, while Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's motion is for the reduction of the allotment. Now I will ask Mr. Madhava Variar to move his motion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not move.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

117. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,100 under Forest Settlement Officer by Rs. 500.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

118. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for Forest Settlement Officer.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

119. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for Forest Settlement Officer.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

Motion 120.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I move the following:—

120. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

The object of this motion is to discuss the general policy of this Department. The first point which I have to urge upon the attention of the Government is the general cry that Travancore timber is not available to the natives of the soil as cheaply as it is available to foreign contractors. The Conservator of Forests excuses himself by saying that it is not his fault. Many Travancoreans may not require a large quantity of timber. It will not be always possible for each individual to negotiate with the Conservator of Forests for the reduction of the tariff rate. It is the duty of the Conservator of Forests to see that timber is sold to the people as cheaply as it is sold to contractors.

One great difficulty which the people experience is with regard to the distance of the timber depôts from up-country places. A man who lives in the up-country will have to go to a depôt in the coastal regions for timber. In 1098, during the budget discussion, Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman and Father Vettikappalli pointed out that there were no depôts in the up-country. The reason why smuggling is carried on on a large scale in the forests is the absence of facilities for the people of the up-country to procure timber from the neighbouring places. If the Conservator will see that a small quantity of timber is always stocked in the Range Offices under the control of the Ranger and the Forester and if the sale is fixed at stated hours every week, the up-country people will be considerably benefited and there will be a consequential reduction of smuggling. The system will also help to reduce the cost of removal. Suppose royal trees are cut from Kottarakara and removed to Quilon. The purchasers from Kottarakara will have to go to Quilon and take timber from there back to Kottarakara. The Government and the purchaser in this case can avoid the expenditure of removal if the Ranger in Kottarakara stocks a quantity of royal trees under his control.

We see no improvement in the administration of forests. The sale of timber is going down steadily. The Conservator always blames the market. But the private contractors and estate owners have no complaints against the market. Mr. Mackie was telling us that the demand for timber is unfailing. It is the policy of the Department alone which is responsible for the existence of surplus stocks in the depôts. There is something radically wrong in the disposal of timber and in the system of sale. I understand that the Department was not able to supply suitable sizes of timber to the purchasers from outside who were obliged to pay higher prices to private contractors. Nobody took care to ascertain the true requirements of the big purchasers and to supply timber

of suitable sizes. The timber in the depôts has deteriorated. The Department will have to be more vigilant in the disposal of timber, in the conducting of sales and auctions, and in the ascertainment of the requirements of purchasers.

When Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai urged in 1098 that the Department should have a saw-mill of its own, the Conservator of Forests said that it would be a failure and suggested that some private firms should do the thing. If, as the Conservator said, the saw-mill would be a failure, would any private firm undertake to do that business? When this question was considered by the Madras Government, they were definitely of opinion that neither private firms can be expected nor found willing to invest large sums of money in tramways, saw-mills, machinery and roads, together with undertaking the responsibility for and cost of regenerating the areas of forest exploited. It is essentially a matter for the State in this country as in others. The Burma Government also propose to erect saw-mills of their own in order to secure valuable markets for their forest wealth.

It is not clear to me what the Forest Utilisation Officer is doing in Travancore. Whatever he may be doing, his labours have not increased the income of the Department. It is alleged that the Utilisation Officer is investigating the commercial potentialities of Travancore forests. I request the Conservator of Forests to tell the House what the Utilisation Officer has done in this direction. The paper pulp industry was taken up in earnest by the Utilisation Officer but nothing has come out of his investigations. Owing to the enterprise of two match factories established in Travancore, a portion of the *eeta* and soft-wood is being utilised by them. The Conservator of Forests has not addressed himself to the task of utilising the forest resources of the State. I do not know whether the Department has realised the immense potentialities of our forests. I ask the Conservator of Forests whether experiments cannot be made in box-making. I think that there is a glorious future for ply-wood boxes. The possibilities of wood distillation are not properly investigated by the Department. The Conservator does not seem to be alive to the necessity for investigating and exploiting the scientific and commercial possibilities of forest products. The income from minor produce is not encouraging. In some of the Indian Provinces, the Forest Department is trying to solve the numerous problems connected with seasoning and mechanical extraction of timber as it is developed in America and other countries. It will be interesting to know whether the Department has interested itself in the exploitation of lac from which forest administrations in some of the Indian Provinces are realising a large income every year.

The Conservator of Forests once promised this House that the question of appointing a trade agent would engage the attention of the Government. I would like to know whether the Government have advanced beyond the stage of promise in this matter.

Before I conclude, I have to speak a word with regard to the disposal of *kudivila* applications. The Department is not at all prompt in

[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.]

the payment of *kudivila*. The investigations are tardily conducted, so much so that many persons have issued notices to the Government. The Conservator says that he has become very cautious after the defalcation case at Kottayam. Nobody blames him for his caution. But the people have cause to complain that the Department is criminally negligent in the disposal of applications for the payment of *kudivila*.

I have to advert to one or two other points with regard to the general policy of the Department. It has been urged in this Council that royalty in trees should be entirely abolished. The Government undertook to consider the question along with the Free Pass Rules. The rules with regard to royal trees are giving a lot of trouble to the Department and to the public. The officers of the Forest Department, instead of conserving and developing the forests, are staying in the plains and are looking after royal trees in private compounds, so much so, that that the forests are not properly inspected and cared for. If the attention of the Department is wholly focussed on the conservation and regeneration of forests and if the officers are asked to live in forest regions, much expenditure can be legitimately avoided.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Sir, I beg to support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar. In doing so, I beg to bring to the notice of this House two other complaints against the Forest Department. The first one is the great reluctance the Department shows in releasing from the reserve forests plots suitable for paddy cultivation. It is admitted that we should try to improve our paddy cultivation so that the local supply of paddy may be equal to the local demand. It is true that Government have been appointing committees to find out and report about the swampy areas in the reserves suitable for paddy cultivation. But the complaint I speak of is not so much about the swampy areas as that question has been kindly taken up by the Government and is under consideration. The complaint I speak of is about other areas which are not swampy where what is called *malankrishi* could be easily done, say once in six or seven years. There was a time when the taluks of Kunnatnad and Todupuzha were supplying sufficient paddy not only for the consumption of those taluks but also for the consumption of the neighbouring taluks. But that was when *malankrishi* was freely allowed in the forests to the great advantage of the Government as well as of the people. The Forest Department, for instance, could very easily allow with good profit to Government such reserves on *kuttugapattam* or some other system as the Karakat reserve and the Pandupara Pilapalli for paddy cultivation. But the Forest Department seems to be against releasing these plots.

The second complaint I beg to speak of is about the exorbitant seigniorage levied on the *eeta* collected from the Government forests. The Government are very anxious to improve all kinds of cottage industries and the high rate of seigniorage now levied on *eeta* is in direct

opposition to this paternal policy of the Government. *Eeta* industry is a thriving cottage industry in Kunnatnad and in some parts of Muvattupuzha and Parur. Hundreds of poor people live on that industry. I know the Director of Industries has been collecting statistics about industries and he may be able to give us exact figures. Anyhow, it is an important industry in North Travancore, and I do not think it is wise policy to try to get out of this industry of the poor as much as possible and thereby choke it. Before 1075 there was no seigniorage on *eeta*. After 1075, a small sum of eight annas per thousand was charged. Slowly one Conservator after another began to enhance the rate of seigniorage and it is now as high as Rs. 2½ per thousand! The poor people have also to pay two rupees for one hundred reeds required for tying the *eetas* into bundles before they are brought down. So the poor man has to pay Rs. 4½ for one thousand *eetas* before they are brought down from the hills. Anyone who knows something of the hard labour necessary for collecting *eetas* and of the dangerous nature of the area wherefrom they are collected, will certainly agree that the present rate is really exorbitant. A further hardship is caused by the time-limit of the pass. According to the present rule, the pass has to be renewed after every fifteen days on fresh payment of fees. These circumstances, Sir, make the industry of these poor people very costly and it is high time that the department suggests to Government a substantial reduction in the seigniorage for *eeta*. In this connection, I must thank the Government on behalf of the *eeta* industry, for the orders that the Government have issued, as a flood relief measure, for giving free passes for *eeta* for some time.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some of the points urged by Mr. Madhava Variar have already been dealt with by me in this House. He has been advocating the opening of sale depôts in out of the way places, near Range Offices, etc. As a result of representations made in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly several years before, we had a number of minor depôts in the Range offices and also in important places in the interior. The result of it was that in no place was any sale effected. I know as a matter of fact that in the Kotamangalam Range Office there were about half a dozen logs for several years lying unsold, and I had to auction them in the end. Though a demand is made for opening fresh depôts in the interior, nobody cares to buy timber from such depôts once they are opened.

PRESIDENT: I think Mr. Madhava Variar wants to open minor depôts for the sale of royal trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No. I think he means junglewood also.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I speak only in regard to royal trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As regards royal trees, the owners have a right to take the trees after establishing their claim for *kudivila* and then pay us half the tariff rate

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

for the timber that they take. That is the rule which we follow at present.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the Department issues any notice to the owners of the lands?

PRESIDENT: I am not able to hear you.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether the Department issues notice to the owners of the lands before they cut the timber.

PRESIDENT: They cannot cut the timber without the knowledge of the owners.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I understand the Forest authorities are not giving notice. The staff of the Forest Department go and cut down and remove the timber without giving any information to the owners. According to the rules they have to prepare a *mahazar*.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir, a joint *mahazar* has to be prepared.

PRESIDENT: Mr. M. N. Pillai, you are not making a specific complaint. If you point out specific cases of breach of rules, then Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will take the necessary action.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I know from my own personal experience that no notices are issued.

PRESIDENT: You will kindly communicate those cases to the Conservator of Forests and he will enquire about them.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to the opening of minor depôts in out of the way places, our experience is that the scheme is a failure. There are greater facilities for private gentlemen for obtaining timber in these out of the way places.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): തക്കലയുള്ള ഡിപ്പോ നിറുത്തിയതു ചിലവില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണോ? അതിൽ ലാഭം ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടും തടി ചിലവാകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടും ആണോ നിറുത്താൻ ഇടയായതു്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Due to want of sale. From the letter recommending to the Government the abolition of the Thuckalai deôpt, which I had occasion to peruse once, I find that a private depôt was opened there with the result that the sale in the Government depôt suffered.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): അതു കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിച്ചാൽ വില്പന കുറവായിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I base my information only on the letter, which I had occasion to peruse, recommending the abolition of the Thuckalai depôt.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഒരാളിനെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനല്ലയോ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവുള്ള ഡിപ്പോവിനെ അവിടെ നിന്നും മാററിയതു്? അതാണ് പരമാത്ഥം.

PRESIDENT: When was the depôt abolished?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): About 1096 or so. For the information of Mr. Kumara Pillai, I may tell him that I have recommended the opening of a depôt at Thuckalai and the matter is pending with the Government.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ ഡിപ്പോവിനെപ്പോലെ വിറകും മുളയും വേറെ എങ്ങും ചിലവില്ല. അത്ര വളരെ ചിലവായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പോവിനെ ഒരാളിനെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയല്ലയോ സക്കാർ നിർത്തേണ്ടതായി വന്നത്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Then Mr. Madhava Variar referred to another point, namely, the opening of saw-mills by the Department. Mr. Madhava Variar comes from Quilon and he is in a position to know more or less the condition of saw-mills in Quilon. Unfortunately, Mr. Mackie is not present to-day. If he were here, we could have had his testimony in the matter. We had the instance of the Russelkonda Saw-mills; that ought to be an eye-opener to all of us. It lost nearly Rs. 50,000 last year. Therefore, the question of opening a departmental saw-mill would not be feasible, especially when we have not much of permanent business in timber. But if any private gentleman would only come forward and open a saw-mill, we would give him all facilities. Personally, I would not recommend the opening of a saw-mill at the cost of Government.

PRESIDENT: Is it because you have plenty of people here to do hand-sawing and because hand-sawing is cheaper than mill-sawing?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir, hand-sawing is cheap here.

Then Mr. Madhava Variar referred to paper pulp and said that nothing was known about the work of the Forest Utilisation Officer. Unfortunately that information has not been published and that has been the cause for so much of misunderstanding on that subject. The Forest Utilisation Officer has investigated the matter and submitted a report to Government. The report was placed before the Economic Development Board for consideration; and after discussion there, it was decided that the financial calculations on which the opening of the paper mill has been based were not accurate; at any rate the Economic Development Board was not in a position to guarantee the accuracy of the figures. Therefore it was decided that nothing need be done before securing all the necessary information accurately. About that time, Mr. Cox of the Malabar Match Factory came forward and agreed to take *eeta* for the manufacture of matches. The initial expenditure required for paper pulp was very high--about Rs. 20 lakhs as recommended

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

in the report, and therefore that was considered to be a risky venture. So, the Economic Development Board recommended the granting of concessions to Mr. Cox, with the result that, in the place of a paper mill, we have a match factory being established in North Travancore.

Mr. Madhava Variar also referred to box-making as a suitable industry. The only boxes that we can make here are packing cases for the despatch of tea and rubber. And at present we get ply chests from outside and the question is whether it would be paying for us to make such boxes here. Mr. Mackie would be in a position to let us know exactly how they are carrying on their industry. Unfortunately, on account of the heavy cost of the machinery, even the possibility of making an experiment is precluded. The cost of machinery required for the experiment is about Rs. 2 lakhs. At the present day, when the foreign chest has established itself here, it will not be possible for us to successfully compete with it.

With regard to the lac industry also, it has been said that we are not doing anything. Lac is a secretion from certain insects which do not thrive in Travancore on account of very heavy rainfall. Even in Mysore lac insects are not thriving properly and, if I am permitted to say so, the result of the experiment made there was very disappointing. They had about 80 lbs. of brood lac in the beginning and in the end they got only 40 lbs.

PRESIDENT: Did you make an investigation and then find out that it was not possible here?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): On account of the heavy rainfall, lac industry cannot thrive here.

PRESIDENT: An investigation has been made here and the result of it has also been published, I think.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to the appointment of a trade agent, the matter is still under correspondence and we have not yet come to a definite decision.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Was there not a trade agent some years ago at Trichinopoly?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There was a trade agent and the experiment ended in failure. The agent wanted us to collect and stock timber. We were expecting orders from him. But the orders never came. Nothing was done practically. He was also not kept there for a long time.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was he a Travancorean?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He was not.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is it not due to the wrong choice of the trade agent that the scheme proved to be a failure before?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Dr. Kunjan Pillai was asked to enquire and report on the matter. He says that it would be very advantageous if a trade agent is appointed in London.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai is in possession of the House.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The matter is still under correspondence and we have not yet come to any definite decision with regard to that.

Mr. Madhava Variar again referred to the delay in the payment of *kudivila*. I do admit, Sir, that we are having enough of complaints in the matter. Unfortunately, in some cases the accounts are so confusing that the old cases could not be easily disposed of. Some of the claims put forward by some people are also very flimsy and not based on proper records.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know why the Department did not keep accounts properly?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is due to the method of doing it and I am not responsible for that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not necessary that you should make a joint *mahazar* before the timber is removed?

PRESIDENT: Please address the question to me.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is absolutely no difficulty in cases where we prepare *mahazars* and where there are correct receipts. The difficulty is in cases where there are no correct records.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What will be the amount due in the shape of *kudivila* approximately, I mean the amount due to the land-owners?

PRESIDENT: You mean the total amount of the claim?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Roughly about Rs. 2 lakhs.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there instances of claims pending for ten or twelve years?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There may be such cases. After 1086 we have not been paying regularly.

MR. M. N PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there cases in which the parties have issued notices?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, there are. The difficulty is that the accounts are not clear and we cannot make head or tail out of the old records available. It involves elaborate labour on the part of the departmental staff. Unless we have an increase of staff and unless the people are also prepared in turn to supply us with the necessary information promptly, it is not possible for us to make headway in the matter. There are cases in which the claims

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

have been investigated and admitted; but on account of inadequate budget allotments, we have sometimes not been able to satisfy them. For recent fellings we have been promptly paying *kudivila*.

The Rev. Father Vettikkappalli has been advocating *malankrishi* in the forests. In the twentieth century for one to advocate indiscriminate *malankrishi* is certainly surprising. Probably he wants only the disafforestation of the one or two reserves he mentioned, if I mistake him not.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): I want reserves to be set free for cultivation in as many places as possible.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): *Malankrishi* or shifting cultivation is of a pernicious nature. In fact the existence of forests is inconsistent with such cultivation. Probably that is why he wanted only one or two reserves. With regard to the Karakat reserve, it is an area which has been reserved for fuel and fodder to the adjoining villages.

PRESIDENT: He mentioned it only as an instance. Fr. Vettikkappalli wants it to be followed as a general principle.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Then I oppose him. It is absolutely suicidal to allow shifting cultivation inside forest reserves.

With regard to the seigniorage for *eeta*, the existing rate is Rs. 2 per thousand. At present the Malabar match factory pays us roughly at Rs. 6 to Rs. 6½ per thousand. The Rev. Fr. Vettikkappalli says that for collecting one thousand *eetas* one has to pay Rs. 2 for *eetas*, and Rs. 2½ for ratans to tie them into bundles. I may assure him that one does not require Rs. 2½ worth of ratans for tying one thousand *eetas* into a bundle.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VATTIKKAPPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): May I know whether we have to pay for ratan even if we do not use ratan for tying *eeta* into bundles? I think at present people are bound to take ratans and pay for them.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I think the amount of ratan required for tying a thousand *eetas* into bundles would not cost more than eight annas; if the pass-holders would take ropes for the purpose of tying the *eeta*, they need not have to pay for ratan. But, since these people have to walk for more than 20 miles, we cannot reasonably expect them to carry ropes with them for such a long distance. Of course, if they are prepared to carry tying materials with them, they will not be charged for ratan.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I do not press the motion.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House permits Mr. Madhava Variar to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 121.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. M. N. PILLAI,

121. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7'67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, are you going to move your motion?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: We will now adjourn for lunch.

The Council adjourned at 2-35 P. M. and re-assembled at 3'30 P. M.

Motion 122.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :

122. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7'67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the policy of the Department during the last few years, particularly with reference to its declining revenue and the causes that have contributed to this result. Though the conservation of the forests may be more important than the realisation of the revenue, it cannot be denied that revenue is a very important matter of concern with the Department. An examination of the budget for the last two or three years will show that there have been considerable fluctuations in the revenue and expenditure in this Department and that the fall in the budgeted revenue has always been very considerable. There was a fall, for instance, from the budget estimate of Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 11 and odd lakhs in 1098. The difference in the budget and revised estimates for 1099 is also more than Rs. 1 lakh. In 1096 we find in the Administration Report the following comment on a similar situation :—

> "It need only be added that the stoppage of coupe sales and the withholding of timber in the depôts awaiting better prices are measures calculated to secure a substantial increase in revenue later, although they are responsible for an immediate apparent decrease in revenue."

Four years have since elapsed, but the situation has been growing from bad to worse. The main reason for the fall in the revenue is attributed to dullness in the timber market. We have been hearing of this dullness year after year, but nothing tangible has been done to improve the sale of timber. The peculiar feature of this sale is that large quantities of timber have been allowed to lie in the depôts unsold for several years, with the result that most of this timber has become unfit for use.

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

The decline in revenue on account of the sale of timber does not seem to us to be attributable solely to the dullness in the timber market. There is reason to believe that Government have to incur serious loss on account of the way in which business is being conducted in this Department. I would place what information I have obtained for examination before the House and I hope the Conservator will give us his own explanation as to the charges that I make, so that the House may judge whether these charges are well-founded or not.

Private negotiation seems to be the favourite method adopted in this Department with regard to the sale of timber. Even in cases where public auction is resorted to, except publishing a notice in the *Gazette*, the ordinary and up-to-date methods of advertisement in other countries are not adopted. There can be no doubt that the marketing portion of the business will suffer on this account. The sale to Messrs. Sabnis and Co. was negotiated by the present Conservator. Great care should have been taken in fixing the terms of a contract involving such a large amount. On the other hand, we find that the Government have now to incur a loss of more than one lakh of rupees mainly on account of the careless manner in which this agreement seems to have been entered into. On behalf of the firm, the agreement was executed by a person who had apparently no authority to execute it so as to bind the firm. Provision should certainly have been made to realise the amount in the event of failure on the part of the firm to perform the contract. This too has not been done in this case. It is not unknown to us that Government have had to pay or been threatened with damages in cases where they have not been able to fulfil the terms of contracts entered into by them. We have now to remain helpless in the case of the Sabnis contract owing to this blunder on the part of the Forest Department. The timber lying in the depôts and now rejected by the company could long ago have been disposed of in small lots at concession rates to the people of this country; but no such attempt, so far as I know, has been made. I saw some of the timber at the Vettikad depôt recently, but the logs did not appear to me to be so bad as they have been represented to be. But time will do its work and this timber will not fetch even fire-wood price after some time.

"Boles" are a most coveted commodity in the timber market. There is a great demand for boles in the adjoining districts of Tinnevelly and other places for house-building. By private negotiation last year, one Kaliappa Nadar, a foreigner, was given the contract to purchase these boles at the rate of as. 64 a bole when the prevailing market rate was somewhere about as. 73 or 74. We find from the Administration Report for 1098 that a quantity of 14,703 boles was extracted in the Shencottah Division and 59,124 boles in the Quilon Division; the extent of the loss could therefore be easily ascertained. Though several persons were prepared to give higher prices for these boles in 1099, the same Kaliappa Nadar succeeded in securing the contract by private negotiation. My information is that some of them had

afterwards wired to Government tendering payment and praying for the right of purchase at higher rates; but the offers had to be rejected. Kaliappa Nadar appears to have secured favourable concessions too. The right to repurchase the 15 per cent. rejection of the boles at nearly half the price of good boles has also been given to him. It appears also to be one of the terms of the contract that Government are prohibited from selling boles to any one else during the period of the contract till Kumbham 1100. It is impossible to imagine a more ruinous arrangement for Government and their contractors who can only get their money after these boles are taken and paid for by the Nadar. There is yet one other condition in this agreement. One of the terms of the contract is that Government are precluded from selling sawn articles above 6′ × 6′ except to this Kaliappa Nadar. Unfortunately sleepers will come under this measurement, and if Kaliappa Nadar wants, he may object to the sale of sleepers which bring in large revenue to Government. Kaliappa Nadar may not perhaps insist on this condition in his contract as he may expect to secure further contracts in future. I understand that this agreement having removed the most coveted material from the market, the sales of other articles in the timber market have also been adversely affected. It is not easy to understand why, in respect of a commodity for which there is so much demand and for which people were prepared to pay higher prices, a contract should have been entered into on such terms and conditions. It will be instructive to compare this agreement made by the Conservator with that made with Messrs. Sabnis & Co. The loss to Government on account of this agreement is very serious.

The way in which tenders are dealt with by the Conservator gives room for serious complaints and misgivings and is calculated to entail loss to Government. The ordinary rule is that the lowest tender is to be accepted whenever possible. Several cases have been brought to our notice in which the Conservator has refused to accept the lowest tender and has prevailed upon a higher tenderer to accept the lower tender. This is most disappointing to those who have offered lower tenders. Competition is thereby greatly discouraged and the ultimate loss has to be borne by Government. The Department has to encourage new contractors by exciting competition instead of confining their dealings to old contractors. There are instances in which contracts have been pressed upon those who did not even offer tenders.

There are other irregularities in the sale of timber. The contractors who supply timber to the depôts are allowed either themselves or through their relatives to purchase the timber supplied by them. The contractor gets a portion of the *kolevila* sufficient for his expenses soon after the timber is brought to the depôt, and if for a few rupees more he can get the timber, he can undersell and can make a profit out of the business. The fall in the demand for '*Anji*' in the Northern Division adverted to in the Administration Report is also attributable to the sale of the whole stock to the supplying contractor.

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

The administration of the Department has not shown any signs of improvement for the last few years. Nothing like a systematic policy is being followed in forest administration. The question of exploitation alone ought to be treated as a commercial proposition and some accounts ought to be kept in order to show in the budget what the amount is that you require for the commercial part of the business and what exactly is the profit that you make. The general annual accounts of the Department do not show definitely whether the produce exploited by Government agency has produced a profit or not. During last year's budget discussion, it was pointed out that the net profit realised by the Government on one cubic foot of timber was only 1 anna 2 pies. There was no sufficient explanation for this disappointing result; but the House was informed that these questions were receiving the consideration of the Department.

The question of working plans has not yet received any satisfactory solution at the hands of the Department. From the explanation given by the Conservator last year, it would appear that working plans are mostly useless and are prepared merely to be deviated from. Yet, year after year, the Government have been expressing regret and asking the Department to complete the preparation. There is no settled policy in respect of working plans depending as it does on the Conservator's policy at the time. The difficulty of preparing working plans appears recently to have been solved by the decision to prepare simple schemes according to the requirements in each case. There are, according to the Administration Report, working plans for an area of 1,290 square miles and 533 acres. Elaborate working plans are said to have been prepared for 673 square miles and 350 acres. But, according to the Conservator, those working plans were prepared some years ago when sufficient data were not available, when conditions were different and when the price of timber was low. Those working plans were also prepared without any idea as regards the time that would be taken for the exploitation in each coupe, and deviations had accordingly to be made in such cases from the original plan. It is impossible to get an accurate and clear idea of what is being done by the Department with regard to the preparation of working plans now and what is the exact area of the forests which is worked under sanctioned working plans. We are not also in a position to know whether any data are being collected for the preparation of the schemes. In Mysore, we find that the total area of State forests *worked* under sanctioned working plans in 1923 was 1,551 square miles or 46·1 per cent. of the total area of State forests. It will be instructive to know what the area of the Travancore State forests is that is being worked under sanctioned schemes.

With regard to communications, we find in the Administration Report:—

"On the whole, progress of expenditure on the important item of improvement of communications cannot be said to be satisfactory and the Conservator should see that better results are shown in this direction."

The revenue derived from minor produce has shown absolutely no signs of improvement. There is no forest industry worth the name. The important source of revenue from grazing is still left unexplored.

With regard to forest inspection, the Government remark in the Administration Report that they "are still in the dark as to the nature and volume of the intensive forest inspection done by the Division officers."

We do not know the nature or extent of the services rendered to the State by the Utilisation Officer appointed in the Department. We have not been able to find any attention being paid to improved methods of exploitation and experiments in regard to various economic products. It remains to be seen whether the officer will be able to justify his existence.

The absence of demarcation and survey maps is a drawback which has not been removed in spite of repeated representations. We find a duty allowance of Rs. 400 to the Superintendent of Survey being provided in this year's budget. I do not know why this provision is made.

The anxiety is to make up the budget revenue towards the end of the year.

All these considerations lead us to conclude that the Department has not been progressing satisfactorily for the last few years. We earnestly hope that the administration will improve in all these respects in future.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have not got much to say as most of these points were dealt with last year during the course of the budget discussion. But there are one or two points which have been brought forward anew. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai says that there was in 1097 a revenue of Rs. 15 lakhs and in 1098 a revenue of only Rs. 11 lakhs and odd. I have already explained to the House how in 1097, on account of the sleeper supply contract which brought us an immediate revenue of nearly Rs. 2 lakhs, the revenue had increased. We had to feel the effect of this later. A large quantity of timber out of which the sleepers were converted was left in the forest. Of these nearly 65,000 cft. were worked down to the depôt, but there was no demand for them. One lakh of rupees was spent on account of working charges alone on this timber and not more than Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 worth could be sold during 1098. It was on account of this that there has been a fall in 1098 and in 1099 also there appeared to be no prospect of disposal of this timber. They were all small materials converted out of sleeper supply remnants and were of different length and size. It was expected at the time the contract was given in 1096 that these timbers could be sold with a small margin of profit. But, unfortunately, the price of timber all over the world fell and there was absolutely no demand for these materials. The working charge was Re. 1 as. 7 and about Rs. 1 lakh had already been spent on that. During the whole of 1099, only about 15,000 cubic feet were disposed of leaving a balance of nearly 50,000 at the end of

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

the year. With this large stock and with also the previous accumulation referred to by some of the members this morning, there was a stock of nearly 70,000 cubic feet at the depôts for which there was no sale. Simultaneously with this, fresh timber was also being got in at the depôts. The purchasers naturally went in for the fresh timber and did not care to go in for the old small materials as they had lost their freshness also by the time. We had already spent over a lakh of rupees on this timber and there was no prospect of selling it. We invited tenders for the wholesale purchase of this timber and there was only one tender received for Re. 1 as. 4. Another offered Re. 1 as. 7, the working charges being paid, but he wanted only a small quantity and that too after selection. We tried negotiations but they also came to nothing. We had supplying contracts by which about 60,000 boles were delivered in the depôts during 1099. By Minam only 20,000 of these boles were disposed of and there still remained 40,000 to be disposed before the next four months.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I cannot hear.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): These boles, Sir, I must inform the House are somewhat peculiar. They are sawn from inferior species of trees which have no demand in our country. They lose their freshness by exposure and go bad very rapidly if exposed to rain. They have therefore to be sold as quickly as possible. 40,000 boles cannot ordinarily be sold from the depôts in the last 4 months of the year, when the rains will have set in. We had also to dispose of the enormous quantity of timber lying in the depôts as a dead stock for the previous 24 months on which we had also locked up over a lakh of rupees. The British merchants are always keen on purchasing the boles but not the *kongu* materials and the only possible chance of finding a sale for the *kongu* materials was to induce the merchants to buy the *kongu* along with the boles. To do this, the merchants will have to invest a large capital, as the value of the purchase will amount to nearly 2½ lakhs. There were only two merchants who had tendered for the wholesale purchase of the *kongu* materials and both of them were financially sound and had had similar contracts with the Department in past years. I asked the Divisional Forest Officer, Shencottah, to negotiate with one of them while I negotiated with the other, the one not knowing the terms of the other. As a result of this, we were able to secure an offer by which the purchaser agreed to buy all the *kongu* materials lying in the depôts for the previous two years at a margin of profit to us, while he also promised to buy all the boles at the average price at which they were sold from the depôts till then. In the beginning of the year when a few boles are brought to the depôts, they are sold at a fancy price. Later on when the depôts get stocked with more timber, the price goes down. The merchants would combine among themselves and dictate their own terms and it becomes a question then how to dispose them. The price offered was sufficiently high and

there was also the additional advantage of our being able to dispose of *kongu* materials at a profit to Government. The offer was therefore recommended to Government and Government accepted the same. About this time, I also received an offer by telegram from some other merchant offering 4 annas more per bole of certain species but he was prepared to purchase only the boles and not the *kongu* materials, the disposal of which was our difficulty. I hope Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai will now be satisfied.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Are we to understand that the demand for boles is so very limited ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. Ordinarily, it will only be about 40,000 per year and not more. If we put more, the market will not consume and the price will go down and they cannot be sold also sometimes. The wholesale purchaser controls the market and he is in a position to push forward the sale in a way we will not be able to do. One great fact is that, if these boles are not disposed of before the rainy month of Karkatakam, they are almost lost to us. We have incurred heavy loss on this account in previous years. Once they are exposed to sun and rain, we are not likely to get even half the price which they would otherwise fetch.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Is it more advantageous to sell all these materials to one person instead of to different persons ?

PRESIDENT: You forget what Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai said. He said that it was considered more advantageous that the boles should be bought by one person because thereby we were in a position to dispose of the *kongu* materials also, and that the man who offered the higher rate wanted only the boles. That is what made all the difference. The old *kongu* materials were extra and we could not get a single cash for them, while this man took them also. It is therefore that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai told you that this man's offer was accepted. He also told you that the demand for *kongu* materials is very limited, that all the *kongu* materials are consumed outside Travancore and that one or two big merchants control the market.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I wanted to know whether, if there were other purchasers, it would not be more advantageous.

PRESIDENT: It would certainly be if the offers were for the whole lot.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is it a fact that we are not in a position to enforce—

PRESIDENT: I cannot hear you.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is it a fact that we are not in a position to enforce our agreement with Sabnis and Co.?

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has not come to that.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to Sabnis and Co., they deposited Rs. 10,000 as advance and agreed to purchase the materials at the rates agreed upon. But later on they found that they had paid a heavy price. They took one or two consignments to Bombay but they could not be sold there. Meanwhile the price of teak timber went down. Burma timber was being sold at Rs. 120 all over the country. So they wanted somehow or other to back out of the contract. We had to dispose of the timber otherwise and recover from them any loss which we might sustain.

PRESIDENT: What Mr. Panjikaran wants to know is whether we can claim the loss from the company.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I believe we can.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was the contract with Government entered into by a person who was authorised by the company to enter into the contract?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai said that Messrs. Sabnis and Co. have entered into an agreement with the Travancore Government. They can only be represented by an individual. In all these matters somebody is authorised by the company.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was the man who entered into the contract an authorised agent of Messrs. Sabnis and Co.?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. The man held a power of attorney.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What was the condition referred to by my friend which necessitated our disposing of the timber in other ways?

PRESIDENT: He has already told you that. They failed to perform the contract and we are disposing of the timber. When we have ascertained the loss, we will proceed against the company.

The time allotted for this Demand is over. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, are you pressing the motion?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 123 and 124.

The following motions lapsed as the time fixed for the Demand had expired.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

123. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

124. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now place for the vote of the House Demand IV—Forest—Rs. 7·67 lakhs *minus* Rs. 1,800.

The grant was made.

DEMAND V—STAMPS.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·71 lakh under Demand V—Stamps.

Motion 125.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnatur*): Sir, I beg to move the following:—

125. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,715 for establishment by (the pay of the Supervisor) Rs. 825.*

The reduction that I propose is the pay of the Supervisor included under this item. I want to know from Mr. George the nature of the work for which the supervision of this particular officer is required.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, to enable the House to understand the nature of the work of this officer, I shall explain the items of work that are being done in the institution. This institution consists of two sections. One is the store section where the papers which are to be converted into stamps are stored. This is in charge of the store-keeper. The other is the manufacturing section, which is not particularly in the charge of anybody and where the manufacturing operations are being carried on. The Superintendent looks after the entire office. The main object of creating this post is to supervise the manufacturing operations. The manufacture of stamps is now done in more than one room. There is no single room in which all of them can be put together. Hence the operations are carried on in more than one room. The necessity for the appointment has been pressed upon the attention of the Government by the late Superintendent of the Stamp Manufactory, Mr. Watts, and also by Mr. Vasudeva Kurup. The latter pointed out that it was not practicable for him as the Superintendent of the institution to have effective supervision over the Manufactory, particularly because he was also in charge of the Mint. He pointed out that, in the absence of effective supervision, a great deal of waste was experienced in the Manufactory. In fact, the wastage amounted to something like five per cent. of the whole. The cost of the paper alone that was so wasted came to about Rs. 7,000 in 1097. He therefore pointed out the necessity for appointing an officer who would be in immediate charge of the manufacturing operations. Then, there is another necessity also which has been brought to the notice of Government. Sometimes, the Superintendent has to be away on short leave, and there is no one to take charge of the institution during such absence. It is not advisable to place the next man, *viz.*, the store-keeper who gets only Rs. 35 to 50, in charge of the institution. It is obvious that the man who is in charge of the printing paper which has to be converted into

[President.]

stamp paper should not also be put in charge of the manufacturing operations. We had sometimes to put the store-keeper in charge during the short absence of the Superintendent, but at the same time we used to say that the responsibility rested with the Superintendent. The Superintendent said that, when another officer was put in charge of an important institution where valuables costing several lakhs of rupees were being manufactured, it was not at all fair that he should be asked to be reponsible for any mishap that might happen during his absence. There is also another reason why there should be a supervising officer in charge of the institution. After the paper is converted into stamps, those portions of the manufactured paper which are labels would remain for some days in the Manufactory for certain other operations such as gumming, drying and perforating. This will take some time, say, one week, before they are transported to the Central Stamp Depôt. In the meantime, the stock will remain in the hands of the Superintendent. The Government think that it is not desirable that a single officer should be in sole charge of the stamps like that. The value of the stamps which would be ordinarily in his charge would come up to sometimes over half a lakh of rupees; so that if we put another officer in that institution we can place the stamp store under the joint lock of both the Supervisor and the Superintendent. Therefore it is that the Government are proposing to appoint a Supervisor in the institution. I believe I have explained the matter sufficiently.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not in the joint lock of the store-keeper and the Superintendent?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The rules do not require it. I have issued from my office instructions to that effect. The store-keeper is, however, not bound to take charge of the stamp-store. He is purely in charge of the paper and is not responsible for the loss happening in the stamp-store.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How long is it since the Government felt the necessity for a Supervisor?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I believe it was recommended by the late Superintendent, Mr. Watts, and then it was repeated by Mr. Kurup.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how it was being managed in the absence of the Supervisor.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is managed without a Supervisor. But Government consider that the better arrangement would be to put in a Supervisor?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In that case a Supervisor on the proposed scale cannot be entrusted with the responsibility.

PRESIDENT: You cannot express an opinion as to whether the supervisor can be entrusted with responsibility.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I recommended Rs. 100 to Rs. 125, but it happened that some of the non-official members of the Finance Committee were not for it.

PRESIDENT : You should not refer to the proceedings of the Finance Committee here.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : I want to know another thing from Mr. George. It is put down in the budget that the appointment is as a temporary measure for 11 months.

PRESIDENT : That is how we have to put it in the budget. Every votable appointment has to be sanctioned by the Council.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : I want to know whether it is not possible for Government to appoint a man as Superintendent on a lower scale. The present Superintendent's personal scale of pay is Rs. 200-250. The pay of the Superintendent is, however, only Rs. 150-200.

PRESIDENT : The present Acting Superintendent gets Rs. 150-200. He draws the minimum.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Is the wastage of stamps that Mr. George spoke of due to want of supervision or want of proper knowledge of the foreman in stamping?

PRESIDENT: May be due to so many things. The men will be careless if they are not supervised.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : If the foreman is not up to the mark, will there not be wastage?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The foreman is an experienced man.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is there not a proposal to shift this institution to the Government Press?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Do you think that there would be necessity for a supervisor then?

PRESIDENT : That is going to happen some time hence.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : The pay of the appointment is only Rs. 150 to Rs. 200; but the present incumbent has a personal scale of Rs. 200 to 250. This is what I see in the budget.

PRESIDENT : He has since left it.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : When the Stamp Manufactory is removed to the Government Press, will it be in the charge of the Superintendent?

PRESIDENT : That is a hypothetical question. It does not arise. It will take years to shift this institution to the Government Press. Do you press your motion, Mr. Kochukunju Pillai?

[Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 126.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

126. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,715 for establishment (the pay of the Supervisor) by Rs. 825.

Motion 127.

The following motion was not moved as the member was absent :—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

127. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for purchase of water-marked paper by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 128.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

128. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. ·71 lakh under Demand V by Rs. 100.

I make this motion just to know whether Government have considered the question of service stamps. Last year, there was a discussion with regard to that.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Last year I promised to look into the question and see how the service stamps came into existence. I called for the old papers from the Huzur Records. I was only able to get the Government circular which introduced service stamps. So I was not able to carry out the investigation which I then promised. So far as I can guess, the object of the introduction of service stamps was first of all to prevent malpractices by the low-paid officials who can otherwise send their official covers service bearing and that would mean that they might send their own private communications by that means. That might be one object. Another object would be to give credit to the Anchal Department for the work done for carrying Government *tupal*. These might have been the reasons which induced the Government to introduce the service stamp system. It is followed not only by us but by other Governments.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will it not be possible to give credit to the Anchal Department otherwise?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We shall have to keep elaborate accounts then.

PRESIDENT: They will not be as accurate either.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the actual expenditure on the manufacture of service stamps?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is less than Rs. 2,500 a year—manufacture, supervision, cost of paper, all taken together amounting only to about Rs. 2,350.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I now put Demand V—Stamps for a grant of Rs. ·71 lakh for the vote of the House.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VI—REGISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2·53 lakhs under Demand VI—Registration.

Motions 129 and 130.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

129. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,000 for binding charges by Rs. 100.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

130. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,700 for Direction by Rs. 100.

Motion 131.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

131. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,12,800 for Sub-Registrars by Rs. 100.

I have sent up the motion to draw attention to Rule 58 of the Registration Rules and the Government Order dated the 19th May, 1924, adding a proviso to that rule. The interpretation of Rule 58 by the registration officers caused a great hardship and as a result of the representations in the Popular Assembly and interpellations in this House the new proviso was added to the Section. Rule 58 runs thus:—

"58 (1) When in the course of attendance at a private residence the registering officer is required to accept for registration or to record the admission in respect of several documents executed by one person or to record in respect of the same document or documents the admission also of other persons residing together and entitled to the concession, the request may be complied with without levy of additional attendance fee.

(2) Similarly, several powers of attorney executed by the same person or signatures to a joint power of attorney of several persons residing together and entitled to the concession may be attested by the registering officer in the course of attendance without levy of additional attendance fee."

I do not wish to enter into a discussion as to the correctness of the interpretation put upon the word "and entitled to the concession." The dispute has been set at rest by the proviso added to the Rule, *viz.*:—

"Provided that in the cases mentioned in sub-rules 1 and 2 the admission of executants not entitled to the concession may also be recorded or their execution of powers of attorney may also be attested on payment to the registering officer of Rs. 2 in respect of each such execution."

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

Though one hardship has been removed, a greater hardship has been imposed by the condition that a payment of Rs. 2 has to be made in the case of every executant. This means that, if there are several executants of a document, each of those who are not entitled to the concession has to pay a sum of Rs. 2 to get his admission recorded. On account of the prohibitory charge, the proviso is not likely to be of much value and will rarely be availed of by the people. Even from the standpoint of revenue, it is not good to fix a high rate like this. The main cause of complaint against the old rule was that it made it impossible for the registering officer to complete the execution of a document in one and the same place and in the presence of all the parties and that it consequently led to unnecessary trouble and dispute. The complaint was raised not because people found it merely convenient or comfortable to have the documents registered in their homes. The difficulty has not at all been removed by the proviso requiring payment of such heavy fees. It is not clear why Government should impose such a heavy charge for the execution of documents in these cases. The registering officer has in any case to go to the private residence of the parties concerned and much of public time is not lost by recording the admission of all the parties. The rule itself does not seem to have been deliberately enacted nor was there such a rule under the old Registration Regulation. Registration and stamp fees were greatly enhanced by the new Regulations and there is no justification for imposing an additional tax on the executants in such cases.

I wish also to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that very great hardship is felt by the people in this matter and there is sufficient justification for their complaints. Those who know the difficulties of executing documents requiring the consent of several persons can very well appreciate the necessity for further amendment of the rule. We are thankful for what the Government have done in enacting the enabling proviso, but a further amendment is absolutely necessary to make it really beneficial. I would therefore respectfully suggest that either the proviso and the words "and entitled to the concession" in Rule 58 be deleted or the fee fixed in the proviso be reduced.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, this additional fee of Rs. 2 was imposed in view of the additional labour thrown on the registering officer. Formerly, they had to pay Rs. 10 in the case of those who were not entitled to the concession. Afterwards, it was fixed at Rs. 2. I do not think Rs. 2 can be considered very excessive. Nevertheless, Government have no objection to examine the question whether the fee could be reduced.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask the Chief Secretary how many Sub-Registrars there are in the Neyyattinkara taluk?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is a Sub-Registrar at Neyyattinkara. There is an additional

Sub-Registrar at Amaravila. I do not exactly remember the number of Sub-Registrars in the taluk.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Krishna Pillai how many Sub-Registrars there are in the Nedumangad taluk?

PRESIDENT: How does it arise out of this motion?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I want to speak on this motion on the basis of the information.

PRESIDENT: He cannot reply to you off-hand. You may speak.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot give an answer off-hand.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Any how the Chief Secretary has been pleased to give me some information. He admits that there are two Sub-Registrars and I can indent upon my personal experience and say that, in the very large taluk of Nedumangad, there are only two Sub-Registrars and both of them are at the taluk headquarters. There has been a demand from the people of Kattakadai and adjoining places—a demand for the establishment of a Sub Registrar's Cutcherry in Kattakadai. Kattakadai is a growing mercantile centre. The Nedumangad taluk is an unfortunate taluk because in order to file a case in the Munsiff's Court one has to submit oneself to three jurisdictions *i. e.*, one to Chirayinkil, one to Trivandrum and another to Neyyattinkara. Now, consistently with the rule for the registration of documents, people from various *pakuthies* of Nedumangad are obliged to go to Maranallur which is in the Neyyattinkara taluk. Now the Sub-Registrars' Cutcherries are centres of civilization and every facility should be afforded to the people to get deeds registered according to their convenience; and if at the same time some *pakuthies* of the Nedumangad taluk could be separated and tacked on to the Sub-Registrar's jurisdiction in Maranallur, I do not see any reason why these *pakuthies* of the Nedumangad taluk should not be clubbed together and brought under the jurisdiction of a Sub-Registrar to be stationed at Kattakadai. If there is not enough work, some *pakuthies* from Neyyattinkara may be added. The people of Neyyattinkara cannot complain about it because hitherto they were in a position of advantage. The importance of Kattakadai does not require reiteration. I wish to point out this fact for the kind attention of Government so that a redistribution of *pakuthies* may take place and the demand made by the people of Nedumangad may be sympathetically considered.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikum* cum *Ettumanur*); Sir, I admit that the Government have conceded a good deal in enacting a proviso and we are thankful for the concession made by the Government. The complaint is that the fee charged is high, considering the general poverty of the people. In view of the fact that the Government are prepared to consider the matter further, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

Motions 132 to 135.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

132. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2 53 lakhs under Demand VI by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

133. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2·53 lakhs under Demand VI by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :

133. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2·53 lakhs under Demand VI by Rs 100.

PRESIDENT: I will now place Demand VI—Registration—for Rs. 2·53 lakhs for the vote of the House.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VII.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·92 lakhs under Demand VII—General Administration—Huzur Cutcherry, etc.

Motion 135.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

135. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,905 for short-hand reporters by Rs. 500.

My object in making this motion is to see whether there is any feasibility of making a cut under this allotment by eliminating one short-hand reporter at least. I think the officer in charge of this Demand will explain the situation by quoting the salary and the number of short-hand reporters in other places.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I can give the information in regard to Madras. There are twelve short-hand reporters drawing a salary ranging from Rs. 125 to Rs. 200. We have only half the number and I find that the quantity of work turned out here is almost identical with the quantity in other places.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 136.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

136. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 7,000.

I find that a sum of Rs. 11,000 is budgeted for travelling allowance to the Huzur Cutcherry, and about Rs. 8,000 and odd has been spent in 1098. I should like to know who the officers are in the Huzur Cutcherry

who travel outside and whether this whole amount is required for their travelling.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The only officer in the Huzur Cutcherry who travels outside headquarters is the Dewan. He takes his Private Secretary also with him. The allotment is intended to cover the travelling allowances of the Dewan and the Private Secretary and the clerical and the menial establishments also. There is another item of expenditure. When the Dewan is on tour, papers have to be sent to him. Peons will have to take boxes to him and they have to be paid travelling allowance.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 137.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I rise to move the following motion:—

137. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,50,714 for Huzur Cutcherry by Rs. 100.

I have tabled this motion in order to make a few observations on the re-organisation of the Huzur Cutcherry. The Huzur Cutcherry is the premier office in the State. It is therefore absolutely necessary that it should be worked most efficiently. If there is any flaw anywhere in the Secretariat, I need not say that it will ultimately work to the disadvantage of the tax-payer. The first thing that strikes any one who goes through the budget for the Huzur Cutcherry is the bewildering complexity of the various scales of salary. It is impossible to find out the principle underlying the fixing of salaries for the different officers in the Secretariat. There is, for instance, the Chief Secretary with a special scale of salary. Then there is the Financial Secretary, there are Secretaries to Government, Assistant Secretaries, Stationery Superintendent, Head Translator, Superintendents, and the Manager who is to be newly added to the grade of gazetted officers, and for whom another scale of pay has to be invented. Then there is the subordinate staff where most of the employees have annual increments. Some have biennial and others triennial increments. After a careful comparison of the different scales, I have not been able to find out any method underlying the fixing of scales and salaries. If the recommendations of the Salaries Committee had been fully given effect to, there would have been some basis for the determination of the salaries. I would like to be enlightened on this point by the Chief Secretary to Government.

I doubt very much whether the proposed appointment of the Manager is necessary. This officer is to be in charge of the Central Issue Branch of the Secretariat. My objection proceeds from the fact that he has not sufficient work in that branch. If my information is correct, the work of this branch is to type all drafts sent from the various sections of the Secretariat and, after obtaining the signatures of the officers concerned, to despatch them. For this purpose, there are twelve undergraduate clerks and twelve typists. In addition there is a second grade clerk on Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 as also a Superintendent on Rs. 140 to Rs. 175.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no proposal to appoint a Superintendent to be in charge of the Section.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): These two hands are supposed to be necessary to supervise the work of the 12 typists and the 12 clerks. I believe that the whole Section, as it has no other work than copying and despatching letters, can be managed by a second grade clerk on Rs. 75 to Rs. 100. The present clerk will be sufficient for the purpose. A Manager seems to me to be unnecessary. If the Accounts Section is also amalgamated with the Central Issue Branch, probably there will be sufficient work for the Superintendent of the Central Issue Branch.

This branch may with advantage be also made a receiving branch. All letters received from outside are, I think, being gone through by the Chief Secretary. The object kept in view by the Director of Office Systems must be to introduce the principle of decentralisation which alone will contribute to the quick despatch of papers and at the same time relieve individuals from overwork. The Chief Secretary should have more time to discuss with the Dewan general administrative matters and should be spared, as far as possible, the monotony of routine work. The Secretaries should be given greater powers and they should be able to attend completely, without orders from the Chief Secretary, to the subjects of which they are in charge. These are some of the suggestions that I venture to make.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I wish to speak on this motion. There has been a lot of complaint about the fact that some of the officers in the Huzur Cutcherry do not turn out adequate work; and on the other side of the House, it has been maintained that they have got too much. It is not for me to weigh in the balance the different arguments *pro* and *con*, but I am utilising this occasion to speak on a subject which looms large in the estimation of Government. That is the management of Hindu Devaswoms. I realise, Sir, that we cannot discuss in this Council measures affecting Hindu Devaswoms. But when this Council is asked to vote funds for the maintenance of clerks and Superintendents and other officers, we can take our stand on the fact that the money that we vote in this House towards the remuneration to those officers part of whose time is taken up with the administration of Hindu Devaswoms. My proposal is that a different system should be discovered and a separate arrangement made by which Hindu Devaswoms might be efficiently managed with advantage to the votaries of that religion. Government in their wisdom one hundred years ago did something for the efficient management of Devaswoms; and from that time to this, various measures had been passed making this change

and that change, but the fundamental difficulty has remained. According to the present system some communities look upon the system with some disfavour, because they suppose that the money of the general tax-payer is spent upon the Hindu Devaswoms.

PRESIDENT: I do not know whether all this is relevant.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): As I pointed out at the beginning, I am advocating that the money voted by this Council should not go to the payment of any clerk or higher officer—

PRESIDENT: That I can understand.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): —who, under the present system, is obliged to devote considerable time for the administration of Devaswoms.

PRESIDENT: We have no separate Devaswom Section in the Huzur office.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I see that. I want only to secure the proper working and amicable relationship of this Council and to prevent attacks on Hindu religious institutions by non-Hindus and those others who do not get the privileges of Hindu temples and a third class of Hindus themselves who may not care for the temples. I can recognise that there is some amount of feeling on the part of the people that the large amount spent upon the Hindu Devaswoms should not be spent because if it is from the general revenue the general tax-payer must get the benefit.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I like to know who the others are.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): 'Others' may mean any number of people. I use it in the ordinary dictionary meaning of the word.

PRESIDENT: I do not understand the drift of your argument.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It is this, Sir. In order to safeguard the interest of the general tax-payer who may not have anything to do with the Devaswoms, I hold that Government should devise some means by which the Hindu Devaswoms which have funds may apply it to the Hindu religion without causing hardship to the non-Hindu people.

PRESIDENT: That is what the Devaswom Proclamation aims at.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The general tax-payer's money should be spent upon other works. The policy may be declared that the general tax-payer's money will not be spent on the Hindu Devaswoms. They have funds and the Hindus only want that those funds should not be appropriated by Government. If Government have taken up Devaswom properties, they must be given

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

back. With the idea of separating this and in order to enable the officers to concentrate their whole energy on work other than the management of Devaswoms and also for the more efficient management of Hindu Devaswoms, I am making these proposals--

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I ask whether it is not incumbent upon the Government under the Proclamation to incur the cost of supervision?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Yes. The Proclamation goes a good way. But I want to take the fullest advantage of the Proclamation.

The general tax-payer's money—money paid by Christians and Mahomedans and the others, who have, as matters now stand, no right in the management of Hindu Devaswoms by Government their money should not be spent.

PRESIDENT: I think the Proclamation contains a satisfactory answer in regard to that also.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether Devaswoms have any connection at all with the Government or whether they are entirely separated from the Government?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I do not think that, because the Government are not connected with the management of the Hindu Devaswoms, they should be indifferent in matters of religion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Will my friend be satisfied if the Government are connected with the Devaswoms only in the same way as churches and mosques are connected with the Government?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am not very conversant with the details of church and mosque management.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Then how are we to understand him when he said that the Devaswoms should be managed as other religious institutions?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): My argument is plain. The Devaswoms should be managed as other religious institutions.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know what he means by *other* institutions, if not mosques and churches? I do not know what he means by *other* institutions.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): My individual opinion is not relevant to the question. (*Loud laughter.*) What I am saying is that they must be free for other work in which the general tax-payer is concerned. That is what I am speaking at

present. Later on, I may take up the other question; and, I think, I shall be able to satisfy Mr. Panjikaran.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I have very little to say. I have already pointed out that it is not proposed to appoint a Superintendent in charge of the Central Issue Branch.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I ask whether a Superintendent is not in charge of the Central Issue Branch now?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): One Superintendent has been temporarily put in charge of it till another officer is appointed. The Superintendent draws a higher salary; and the Manager proposed to be put in the Section will draw a lower salary.

Then, with regard to the distribution of work in the Secretariat, that is a matter which is engaging the attention of the Government.

As regards Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's argument, I have not been able to follow him. I do not know whether he wants to amend the Devaswom Proclamation.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): If I wanted that, I should have said so.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have nothing more to say.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 138 and 139.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

138. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,50,714 for Huzur Cutcherry by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

139. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,50,714 for Huzur Cutcherry by Rs. 100.

Motion 140.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I beg to move the following motion:—

140. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,50,714 for the Huzur Cutcherry by Rs. 100.*

ഈ മോഷനിൽ എനിക്ക് ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായി പറയാനുള്ളത് മേലാൽ എല്ലാകാലവും സ്വദേശീയർ തന്നെ General Administrationന്റെ മേധാവികളായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ അഭിപ്രായം കൊണ്ട് ഇതുവരെയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വിദേശീയരുടെ ഭരണം തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നോ, അവരുടെ ഭരണത്തെപ്പററി ആദരവില്ലെന്നോ അർത്ഥമാക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. നേരെമറിച്ച്, നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം ഇന്നത്തെ പരിഷ്കൃതനിലയിൽ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ഏൎത്തുന്നതിനു സഹായിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർ വിദേശീയരാണെന്നുള്ള പരമാൎത്ഥം ഞാനൊരിക്കലും വിസ്മരിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിലേക്ക് ഈ രാജ്യനിവാസികൾ ഏററവും നന്ദിയുള്ളവരായിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. പുത്തൻകച്ചേരിക്കു പടിഞ്ഞാറുവശം നിറുത്തീട്ടുള്ള പ്രതിമ അതിലേക്കു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻജിമാർ സ്വദേശീയരായിത്തന്നെയിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള വാദം എന്തിലേക്കാണെന്നു പലരും ചോദിക്കുമായിരിക്കാം. അതിലേക്ക് എനിക്ക് ഒന്നാമതായി പറയാനുള്ളത് ഈ രാജ്യനിവാസികളുടെ അവകാശമായ തത്വത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയും, അവരുടെ അഭിമാനത്തെ പുലൎത്തി രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനായുമെന്നാണ്. രണ്ടാമതായി പറയാനുള്ളത് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ ഇൻഡ്യാസാമ്രാജ്യത്തിൽ മുന്നണിയെ പ്രാപിച്ചുനില്ക്കുന്നതും, അതിലേക്കു ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായി ൪൦ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കി വരുന്നതുമായ ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണം നടത്തുന്നതിന് ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഒരാളെ ദിവാൻജിയായി തിരിഞ്ഞെടുക്കാനില്ലെന്നു വരുന്നതായാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായി ഇത്ര വലുതായ ഒരു തുക പൊതുമുതലിൽനിന്നും ചിലവാക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല എന്നാണ്. നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ദിവാൻജിമാർ സ്വദേശീയരായിത്തന്നെയിരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഇവിടത്തെ റസിഡൻറായിരുന്ന റീസ്സ് എഴുതീട്ടുള്ള "Modern India" എന്ന പുസ്തകത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"It is much to be desired that Residents who are appointed by the Local Governments should be sternly forbidden to attempt to administer Native States after the British fashion, that ministers should be chosen from the inhabitants of the State itself, that they should be left to manage affairs in concert with, and under the supervision of, the ruling Chief, without interference except in cases of gross misgovernment."

മൂന്നാമതായി പറയാനുള്ളത് വിദേശീയദിവാൻജിമാർ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനു പല നന്മകളും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി എല്ലാവരും പൂൎണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് സൎവ്വീസിൽ നിന്നും സ്വല്പകാലത്തേക്കു ദിവാൻജിയായി വരുന്നവരുടെ ജോലിയും ശമ്പളവും ഇവിടേയായിരുന്നാലും, ഇവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയുടെ നിലയിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസംബന്ധമായ എല്ലാ സംഗതികളിലും ബ്രിട്ടീഷ്സർവീസിലെ ശമ്പളക്കാരാണെന്നുള്ള നിലയെ വിസ്മരിക്കാതെയും, അവിടത്തെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും അവിടത്തെ നന്മകളും മുൻനിറുത്തിയും പ്രവൎത്തിക്കുന്നതിനും അവർ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിനോടു കടപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഒരിക്കലും വിസ്മരി

ച്ചുകളവാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കടപ്പാടുകളോടു കൂടിയ ഒരു വിദേശീയദിവാൻജിയുടെ ഭരണനയങ്ങളിൽ പലതും രാജ്യത്തിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും യോജിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതു സ്വാഭാവികമാണ്. രാജ്യത്തെ മുതലെടുപ്പിനു ദോഷം വരുത്തി Kannan Devan Concession നെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളത്, പെരിയാർ ലീസിന്റെ വ്യവസ്ഥകളിൽ സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്, വിദേശീയർ ഇവിടെ വസ്തുക്കൾ സമ്പാദിക്കുന്നതിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളെ നീക്കീട്ടുള്ളത്, വിദേശീയർ‌ക്കു ഭൂമികളെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ സൌജന്യങ്ങൾ കാണിച്ചു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്, വിദേശീയർക്കുവേണ്ടി ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്, ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷിവർദ്ധനയ്ക്കുവേണ്ട വഴികളിൽ താല്പര്യക്കുറവു കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്, ആദായകരമായ രാജ്യത്തിലെ പല സാധനങ്ങളും ലഘുവായ തുകകളിൽ കൂടുതൽ കാലാവധിക്കു വിദേശീയർക്കു കുത്തകകൾ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളത്, ഇവിടെ ധാരാളം അച്ചടിശാലകൾ ഉള്ളപ്പോൾ സ്വദേശീയരെ സഹായിക്കാതെ നാട്ടുഭാഷാപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ അച്ചടിക്കാൻ വിദേശീയഅച്ചുക്കൂടക്കമ്പനികളെ ഏല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്, മുതലായ അനേകദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ വിദേശീയഭരണത്തിന്റെ സ്മാരകസ്തംഭങ്ങളായി നില്ക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനേയുള്ള ഭരണദോഷങ്ങൾ രാജ്യത്തിനു വന്നുചേരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രധാനമായി ഞാൻ ഒരു വഴിയേ കാണുന്നുള്ളു. അതായത് സ്വദേശീയരായ ദിവാൻജിമാർ രാജ്യത്തെ ഭരിക്കാൻ ഇടവരുന്നതാണ്.

നാലാമതായി എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെയും അതിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെയും സ്ഥിതിഭേദങ്ങളെപ്പററി വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിക്കാതെ വിദേശങ്ങളിൽ നടപ്പാക്കീട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാവിധപരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളേയും അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഇവിടെ പകർത്തുന്നതിൽ രാജ്യത്തിനു പലവിധമായ ദോഷങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിത്തീരുന്നുഎന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പററിയും റീസ്സ ഇങ്ങനെ എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നു :

"The same remark applies to the Dewans or Prime Ministers of Native States, who are appointed by the Ruling Chiefs concerned, but whose appointment requires the confirmation of the British Indian Government, and it is to be feared that not infrequently ministers are appointed on the advice of the Resident, rather than upon the initiative of the Ruling Chief which it is the declared policy of the Government of India to respect. Where such ministers have previously been employed as administrators in British territory, they take office with an ineradicable tendency to introduce British standards. Thus in many cases the precious individuality of the Native State, and its value as a standard of comparison with British India, is lost or impaired by the unnecessary and indeed undesirable interference of ministers whose duty it should be to preserve, and not overthrow the native system they find in being."

സ്വദേശീയദിവാൻജിമാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ ഒരു കാര്യത്തിൽ പലക്കും സംശയമുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. അതായത് പബ്ലിക്ക

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

സർവീസിൽ സ്വജാതീയരെ കൂടുതലായി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി വേണ്ടപോലെ പര്യാലോചിക്കയും നിയമസഭയിലെ പല ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കും കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ ഈ സംശയത്തിനു ധാരാളം അവകാശമുള്ളതാണ്. ഏതായിരുന്നാലും ഒരാളുടെ ഭരണം പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും പല സംഗതികളിലും രാജ്യത്തിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ദോഷത്തെയുണ്ടാക്കിത്തീക്കുന്നതു സ്വാഭാവികമാണ്. ഒരാളുടെ ഭരണം രാജ്യത്തിൽ രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഭരണ നയങ്ങളെ സ്ഥിരതയില്ലാതാക്കിത്തീക്കുന്നു. അതിൻെറ ഫലമായി തീരുന്നതു രാജ്യത്തിൽ അധികച്ചിലവുകളെയും, ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളെയും ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഇവിടെ ഒരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവു കൌൺസിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഇന്നത്തെ പല ഭരണന്യൂനതകൾക്കും പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. ഒരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവു കൌൺസിലിൻെറ അത്യാവശ്യകതയെപ്പററി റീസ്സ് ഇങ്ങനെ എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നു:

"Arguments in favour of the Governor in Council arrangement are that it provides for collective deliberation and responsibility for the distribution of work amongst the members, for continuity of policy, and for avoidance of personal idiosyncrasies, and possibly autocratic temperament on the part of the head of the Government."

ഇവിടെയൊരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവു കൌൺസിൽ ഇല്ലാത്തതിൻെറ ദോഷം ഓരോ ദിവസവും ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യക്ഷമായി കാണാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നു. ഇവിടെയുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അധികൃതന്മാക്കു ഏതു ഭരണനയങ്ങളെയും മാററുന്നതിനും, ഏതുതരം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനും എളുപ്പത്തിൽ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ പിന്നീടു വന്നു ചേരുന്ന ദോഷഫലങ്ങൾക്ക് ആരും ചുമതല വഹിക്കാതെ വരുന്നു. ഇവിടെ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ഒരാളുടെ ഭരണത്തിൽ ആ ആളുടെ തൃപ്തിയും സന്തോഷവും നേടിക്കൊള്ളുന്നവക്ക് ഏന്തു കാര്യവും സാധിക്കാൻ വിഷമമില്ലാതെ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ നയം രാജ്യത്തിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും പല ദോഷങ്ങളേയും ചെയ്തു പോരുന്നു. അതോടുകൂടി പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസ് ദുഷിച്ചുപോകുന്നതിനു പല സൌകര്യങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിത്തീരുന്നു.

ഇനി മറെറാരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിൽ കാര്യക്ഷമതയും സത്യസന്ധതയും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടീട്ടാണ് ഹജ്ജൂർ ആഫീസിൽനിന്നും പുറമെയുള്ള പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾക്കും മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ ആളുകളെ നിയമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നത്. ആ നയത്തെ തുടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്നു പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും നിയമസഭ

യിൽ പറയാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ അവസരങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം അതിലേക്ക് അനുകൂലമായ മറുപടിയാണ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. എന്നിരുന്നാലും, അനുഭവം അതിലേക്ക് അനുകൂലമായിട്ടല്ല കണ്ടുവരുന്നത്. ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി പറയുന്ന പക്ഷം ഹജ്ജൂർ ആഫീസിൽനിന്നും എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്ക് ആളുകളെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ള രണ്ടു പ്രാവശ്യം ഗവർമ്മെൻറിലേക്ക് എഴുതി അയക്കയും ആ നയത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറ സ്വീകരിക്കയും ചെയ്തു. ഇന്നത്തെ കമ്മിഷണർ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ്സിനു ഈ നയം സമ്മതമല്ലാതെവരികയാൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറ സ്വീകരിച്ചിരുന്നതായ നയത്തിൽ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഗവർമ്മെൻറ പിന്മാറേണ്ടതായി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ഹജ്ജൂർ ആഫീസിൽ അഞ്ചു സെക്ഷനും അതിലേക്ക് ഏഴു സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരുംഉള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ കൂടുതലായിനില്പുള്ള സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരിൽ ഒരാൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒഴിവുള്ള ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിന് അപേക്ഷിച്ചതിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അതിലേക്കു നിയമിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർക്കു സമ്മതമില്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ എക്സൈസ്കമ്മിഷണർ ശിപാർശചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ ആഫീസു മാനേജരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗജീവിതത്തെപ്പററി സൂക്ഷ്മമായി പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ചുമതലയുള്ള ആ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ നിയമിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതി ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്‌വർഷം ൧൯൨൮ സെപ്തംബർ ൨൬-നു- യിലെ *The people* എന്ന പത്രത്തിൽ കാര്യകാരണസഹിതം ഭംഗിയായി തെളിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ലേഖനത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതായ എല്ലാ സംഗതികളും നിയമസഭയിലുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള പല ചോദ്യങ്ങളാലും വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളാലും തെളിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണ്. എന്നിരുന്നിട്ടും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കാര്യക്ഷമതയെപ്പററിയോ സത്യസന്ധതയെപ്പററിയോ വേണ്ടപോലെ പര്യാലോചിക്കാതെ തൻെറ ആളിനു എങ്ങിനെ എങ്കിലും ഉദ്യോഗകയററമുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള നയം അതിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ സ്വീകരിക്കയും അതിനെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറ അനുകൂലിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു പല ദോഷങ്ങൾക്കും കാരണമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇതുകൾക്കെല്ലാം കാരണമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ളത് ഒരാളുടെ ഭരണവും അതിലേക്കു സ്വാഭാവികമായുള്ള ശക്തിക്കുറവും ആണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല.

ദിവാൻജിമാർ അവരുടെ സ്വന്തചുമതലകളിൽ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ കൊച്ചി തുറമുഖകാര്യത്തിൽ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പങ്കുകൊള്ളുന്നതിനു സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാര്യത്തെ ഒരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. കൊച്ചിതുറമുഖത്തിലെ ആദായത്തിൽ മൂന്നിൽ ഒരു ഭാഗം നമ്മുടെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു കിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ളതായി തീരുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇത് ഇവിടത്തേക്ക് അനുകൂലമായി കരുതാവുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ കൊച്ചി തുറമുഖത്തിലെ ആദായത്തിൽ എന്തെല്ലാം ചിലവുകളെ കഴിച്ചിട്ടാണ് മൂന്നിൽ ഒരു ഭാഗം കിട്ടുന്നതെന്നും അതിൽ ഇവിടെയുള്ളവർക്ക് എത്രത്തോളം പ്രവേശനമുണ്ടെന്നും ആ പ്രവേശനത്താൽ എത്രത്തോളം പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നും ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളിൽ ആർക്കും വ്യക്തമായി അറിയാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അതിനുപുറമെ, കൊച്ചി തുറമുഖത്താൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ഇവിടത്തെ കസ്റ്റംസുവരവു കുറയുമോ എന്നും കുറയുമെങ്കിൽ അതിലേക്കു പരിഹാരമായി എന്തെല്ലാം കരുതലുകൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിയാൻ തരമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. കൊച്ചി തുറമുഖത്തിന് ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പങ്കുകൊള്ളുന്നതിനായി വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു മുമ്പായി, ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറുമായി ൩൦-വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള Interportal Convention-ൽ കാലാനുസരണം വേണ്ട ഭേദഗതികൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ് ജനങ്ങൾ കരുതുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു പിന്നീടു തോൽവിയുണ്ടാകുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ അതിനെപ്പററി ജനങ്ങൾ ചോദ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ഇപ്പോൾ പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നതുപോലെ മുമ്പുനടന്നുപോയ സംഗതിയാണെന്നും അതിനാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു പ്രവേശിക്കാൻ അവകാശമില്ലെന്നും സമാധാനം പറയാൻ ഇടവരുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിലേക്ക് ഇടവരുന്നതും വരുത്തുന്നതും രാജ്യത്തേക്ക് ഒരിക്കലും രക്ഷയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

ഒരാളുടെ ഭരണത്താൽ വരുന്ന ദോഷങ്ങൾക്കു മറെറാരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തം കൂടിപ്പറയാം. ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ അഴിമതികൾ എത്രതന്നെ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവന്നാലും അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് എത്രതന്നെ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളോടുകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാലും, അവിടെ അഴിമതികൾ ഇല്ലെന്ന് ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ പറയുന്നതായാൽ അതിനെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പൂർണ്ണമായി വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോകുന്നതു സാധാരണമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിലുള്ള അഴിമതികളെപ്പററി മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള തുറന്ന കൌൺസിലിൽ വച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളെ ഏതെല്ലാംവിധ

ത്തിൽ രൂപഭേദംവരുത്തി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചു എന്നും അതിനെ എങ്ങനെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു വിശ്വസിച്ചു എന്നും ഉള്ളത് ഇതിലേക്കു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായിനില്ക്കുന്നു.

മേൽവിവരിച്ച പലേ കാരണങ്ങളാലും ഇവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻ പദം എല്ലാകാലത്തും ഒരു സ്വദേശീയനിൽ തന്നെ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യേണ്ടതും അതോടുകൂടി അദ്ദേഹത്തെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കൌൺസിൽ കൂടിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതും ആണെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to second Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion.

PRESIDENT: No need for seconding.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am in full sympathy with what Mr. Kumara Pillai has said. As stated by him at the very beginning, it is not the intention of myself, or the intention of any one else, to cast any slur on foreign Dewans. They have done immense good to the country. The statue of Sir T. Madhava Row in front of the Huzur Cutcherry speaks volumes for the work done by a foreign Dewan and the gratitude the people of Travancore have towards him. I have seen a number of foreign Dewans, Sir Seshiah Sastri, Ramiengar, Sir T. Madhava Row—names to conjure with. There is not the smallest doubt that there has been very great advantage in having a foreign Dewan. He comes here with new ideas; he comes here with detachment, without kith and kin to provide for. All these are no doubt advantages. But we have advanced by leaps and bounds in the matter of education. Self-government is the song that is sung throughout India. And at this time of day to have a foreign Dewan is a sad commentary upon our education and upon the tremendous advance this country has made. The foreign Dewan comes here more or less as a bird of passage. He belongs to British India and he goes back to British India. Very often the Dewanship is made a stepping stone to further glory. He comes here without a sufficient knowledge of the country; he has to spend a couple of years to learn the country and the people before he is able to give anything substantial to the country. The greater portion of his administration passes by in that way. He makes a number of mistakes; he has to do a thing and then undo it. The greatest flaw in the administration of a foreign Dewan has been well illustrated during the past several years. There is no continuity of policy. As I have stated before, one Dewan came and started the Shertallai canal; another Dewan closed it; and a third Dewan started it again! All this is waste of public money. It is not the fault of the Dewan. It is the fault of his not having sufficient knowledge of the requirements of the country, and even with regard to his relation to the Sovereign I want to say a word. A Dewan from the country will have greater access to him

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

He can understand the wishes of the Sovereign much better than a foreign Dewan can do.

Coming to the question of the Executive Council, I cannot do better than refer to what Sir J. D. Rees has said about the necessity for an Executive Council in an Indian State. The most important point advanced in favour of it is the securing of continuity of policy. The Councillors as well as the native Dewans will have to give an account of their stewardship even after their retirement. They are of the country, they understand the wishes of the people, and act in accordance with their wishes. The same thing applies to the members of the Executive Council. These are the remarks which I have to make in expressing my entire sympathy with what Mr. Kumara Pillai has stated.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, I do not concur with the mover as regards the undesirability of selecting foreign Dewans for the administration of the country. The ideal that has to be kept in view is efficiency. In this matter we have only to ask ourselves the question whether the wonderful progress the country has had in the past in every direction would have been achieved but for foreign Dewans. One very great advantage in having foreign Dewans is the effective way in which justice has been dispensed between class and class, especially in this country with its communal conflicts. One of the greatest complaints we have heard so often in this Council is that, in the matter of representation in the public service, a fair representation has not been given to all classes alike. It is a very problematical thing whether, in case a native Dewan is appointed, some leaning would not be shown to the class to which the Dewan himself happens to belong. This is a very paramount question, one that cannot be easily overlooked in this matter.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether there is no communal complaint just now.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): There may be complaints; but we cannot possibly attribute anything personally to the Dewan. As for myself, I would not personally have a Dewan with a bias so far as any particular community is concerned.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether Mr. Lakshmana Pillai wants to perpetuate the appointment of foreign Dewans in Travancore?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I do not want to do that. I have already said that efficiency is the criterion for choosing the officer.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does he mean to say that the local officers are less efficient?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I have already said that efficiency is the ideal to be kept in view. We have only to ask ourselves this question, whether the past wonderful progress would have

been achieved but for the foreign Dewans that we have had. Judged by that test, I do not think that we have any reason to regret that our country has been administered by foreign Dewans. On the other hand, we have every reason to be proud and to congratulate ourselves that we have had the good fortune and the privilege of having foreign Dewans who have been reputed for great capacity and greater impartiality than we could expect to have from a native of the country. I do not mean to say that there may not appear in future some native of Travancore who will possess all the necessary requisites for true statesmanship. The only native Dewan that has been known for very high capacity is perhaps Mr. Sankarasubba Aiyar. If there were any opportunities hitherto for another able man like Mr. Sankarasubba Aiyar to be selected, that selection would have been already made. What I mean to say is that we should be quite above bias in this matter. We should see things very clearly, not from the point of view of whether the Dewan happens to be a native or a foreigner alone. From the true point of view, my opinion is that we need not be so emphatic on this matter as to exclude all foreigners from becoming administrators in this country. More than that, I do not think myself called upon to observe in this connection.

PRESIDENT: The mover of the motion Mr. Kumara Pillai has left the House intimating to me that he has some other urgent business outside. Does the House wish to proceed with this motion? I do not think Mr. Kumara Pillai will be coming back today. If any other gentleman wishes to speak, he may.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : Are we to continue the discussion tomorrow on this particular subject?

PRESIDENT: May I know the wish of the House?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The discussion may continue.

PRESIDENT: Then we will adjourn now.

The Council adjourned at 5-5 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 the next day.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 23rd September, 1924.

SECOND SESSION, 1099.

(Adjourned Meeting.)

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council re-assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-eight of the Clock, the President presiding.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Refunds of Excess Duty levied.

64. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount refunded each year as excess duty levied on the imports through the Alleppey Sea Customs Chowkey during 1096, 1097 and 1098 ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information asked for by the member is given below :—

Year.	*Amount.*		
	Rs.	As.	Ps.
1096	286	12	5
1097	203	2	9
1098	314	3	9

Motor Traffic along Attingal-Chirayinkil Road.

65. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to ascertain from the Chief Engineer whether the road from Attingal to the Chirayinkil Railway Station has become useless and dangerous owing to constant motor traffic ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Chief Engineer reports that the road is maintained in the best condition possible for an unmetalled road and is in good order.

G. P. T. 939. 310. 13-10-24.

Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

Papers re. Contract for Supply and Sale of Liquor to Mr. Balagurusvami Nadar.

66. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Is it a fact that the present Excise Commissioner recommended to the Government that the farming system in regard to abkari should be stopped and that the contract relating thereto should be sold in auction?

(*b*) Is it a fact that some days afterwards the same Excise Commissioner wrote to the Government withdrawing his recommendations and recommending that the whole contract should be given to Mr. Balagurusvami Nadar? If so, will the Government be pleased to place on the table both these letters?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The Excise Commissioner recommended that the farming system in regard to toddy in the taluks of Shertallai, Parur, Vaikam and Kunnatnad should be done away with and the shops sold by public auction. This was sanctioned.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative. The letter relating to part (*a*) cannot be placed on the table.

Work of the Forest Utilisation Officer.

67. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) When was Mr. K. S. Narayana Aiyangar appointed as Forest Utilisation Officer?

(*b*) What is the nature of the work turned out by him so far and how long do the Government intend keeping him on that special duty?

(*c*) What is the cost incurred hitherto on account of the special establishment for forest utilisation?

(*d*) Has he submitted a report?

(*e*) If not, when do the Government expect to get a report from him?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Mr. Narayana Aiyangar was appointed Forest Utilisation Officer from the 19th Chingam, 1099.

(*b*) A statement * showing the nature of the work done by him so far is laid on the table. Government do not propose to continue the appointment beyond one year for the present.

(*c*) Rs. 1,636-12 ch-1 cash.

(*d*) and (*e*) Monthly progress reports of the work done by him are being submitted to the Government.

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* *Vide* appendix I—page 519.

Statement of Lands available for Assignment to Depressed Classes.

68. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a talukwar statement of the lands available for registry and assignment to the depressed classes?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A statement † giving the required information is laid on the table.

Dr. P. J. Thomas's Claims to History Professorship.

69. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any application has been received by them or the Director of Public Instruction from Dr. P. J. Thomas for an appointment in the Education Department?

(*b*) If so, was his application considered by the educational officers who were consulted in filling the vacancy in the History Section of His Highness the Maha Raja's College?

(*c*) What was their opinion of Dr. Thomas's claims as compared with those of other applicants for the vacant professorship?

(*d*) What were the qualifications, academic and otherwise, of Dr. P. J. Thomas and also the length of his service under Government?

(*e*) Was any assistance given by the Government to Dr. Thomas for prosecuting his studies in Europe?

(*f*) Will the Government consider his claims in connection with the present or any future vacancy that may arise in the Education Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes; by the Director of Public Instruction.

(*b*) The Director reports that by an oversight his application was not considered.

(*c*) In the light of the answer to part (*b*), this question does not arise.

(*d*) (1) B. A. (Hon.) Degree of the Madras University (First Class);

(2) B. Litt. Degree of Oxford; and

(3) Oxford Educational Diploma with distinction.

He was in the service of this Government for about 3½ months on two different occasions as Ag. Tutor of History in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) The Director will be asked to consider his application for a future vacancy.

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† *Vide* appendix II—page 520.

[President.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that this interpellation was sent up to Government about six months ago?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not know if it is six months old. That it is an old interpellation, I know.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that it was only after this interpellation was sent up to the Government that the vacancies of English Professorships were filled in the Arts College and in the Science College?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The question does not relate to any English Professorship at all. It relates only to the History section. Dr. Thomas qualified in History.

PRESIDENT: Your original question was whether a vacancy in the History section was filled up after the interpellation was sent.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir. I want to know whether it was not after this interpellation was sent that the vacancy of the History Professorship also was filled in the Arts College.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No permanent vacancy arose.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Even temporary?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A temporary vacancy did arise.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In the matter of an English Literature man—

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this question and answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am asking a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: You cannot ask it, as it does not not arise out of the main question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it only after this interpellation was sent to Government that the Director was addressed on the subject?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): On which subject?

MR. A, HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What I want to know is whether the oversight was brought to light only after the Government referred the question to the Director.

PRESIDENT: What question?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I refer to my interpellaon.

PRESIDENT: Your interpellation was sent to him.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it after that that the Director reported that his application was not considered by oversight?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that Dr. P. J. Thomas has passed the highest examination both in History and in Literature?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion. What is meant by 'highest'?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is there anybody else who has passed such high examinations?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Where?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In Travancore.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is a matter of opinion as to what is the highest examination in a particular subject.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether there is a man with Doctorship of Literature, diploma of distinction and so on.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion as to which degree is better than which degree.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether any other man has all these high degrees.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are ever so many men with very high degrees in the English department and it is not possible to compare their degrees with those of Dr. Thomas and make a pronouncement.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are Government aware that Dr. Thomas has taken service under the Ceylon Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no direct information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Any indirect information?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, they have.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does it not mean that the service of a son of the soil has been lost to the State?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Not always.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are Government aware that there is only one Roman Catholic in the Arts and Science Colleges?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

PRESIDENT: Are you sure that he is the only Roman Catholic?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir; he is the only Roman Catholic in the two Colleges referred to.

Beggar Problem in Travancore.

70. MR. P. T. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): (*a*) How many beggars are there in the State?

(*b*) How many of them are born subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, and how many outsiders?

(*c*) How many of these are able-bodied men fit to work, and how many unable to earn their livelihood on account of physical infirmities, diseases, etc.?

(*d*) Are not the Government aware that these beggars are wandering from house to house causing nuisance to the public?

(*e*) Where do these beggars live? Have the Government made any provision for housing these poor people?

(*f*) Do the Government know that many of them die miserably on the streets and roads?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to introduce a Bill prohibiting professional beggary and the immigration of beggars into Travancore, and laying down measures for the alleviation of the miseries of *bona fide* beggars?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The total number of beggars including vagrants, witches, wizards, etc., is 5,770, as per the census of 1921.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) Some beggars do so.

(*e*) Government have no information as to their abodes. Government have made no special provision for their accommodation.

(*f*) Government have no information.

(*g*) Government do not propose to undertake any such legislation at present.

Examination Qualifications for Government Service.

71. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they consider the Vernacular Higher and the Vernacular School Leaving Examinations as equal in value for preference and promotions in the public service;

(*b*) whether all those who have passed the Vernacular Higher Examination are started on the same pay in the Education Department; and

(c) whether any distinction is made between those who have passed the English School Leaving Certificate Examination and those who have passed the Vernacular Higher Examination in the Vernacular branch of the Education Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) and (b) The answer is in the negative. The former is considered a higher qualification than the latter.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

Lease of Liquor Shops under the Farming System and the Independent Shop System.

72. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the actual revenue they have been receiving for the last four years from the taluks (except the Devicolam Division) where the farming system has been in vogue;

(b) the additional revenue which they have derived by the auction sale of the shops for the vend of toddy in the area to be brought under the independent shop system during the next biennial contract; and

(c) the staff employed at present in the area under the farming system and the expenditure on the same, the additional staff, if any, recommended by the Commissioner on account of the introduction of the new system, and the cost entailed by such increase of staff?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) A statement* giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) The rentals received for 355 toddy shops which have been sold out of the 404 toddy shops sanctioned for the area brought under the independent shop system, amount to Rs. 2,54,905 per annum. Full information in regard to the additional revenue is not therefore available at present.

(c) A statement † giving the required information is laid on the table.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that at the recent auction—

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have to qualify that answer by a sentence. The printed answer is not complete. A reduction of Rs. 2,700 per annum was made at the last budget meeting of the Council in Karkatakam.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With regard to these toddy shops?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): With regard to the additional hands. We find in appendix IV certain figures given. Rs. 2,700 will have to be deducted out of the total expenditure on account of the additional hands given there.

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* *Vide* appendix III—Page 520 † *Vide* appendix IV—Page 521.

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Is it not a fact that at the recent auction of these taluks under the independent shop system a sum of about Rs. 90,000 was fetched per annum excluding tree tax?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): About Rs. 75,000 or Rs. 80,000. I do not remember the exact figure.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Is it not a fact that this amount is exclusive of the tree tax?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Is it not a fact that as a rule about one-third of the rental amount is brought up in the way of tree tax per annum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That will vary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) . I am speaking roughly.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I cannot say definitely.

Defalcations in the Trivandrum Municipality.

73. MR. K PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that some officers of the Trivandrum Municipality who embezzled municipal funds have been retained in the service on their refunding the amounts misappropriated by them?

(*b*) If there are such cases, will the Government be pleased to place on the table the names and designation of these officers with the reasons for not prosecuting or otherwise punishing them?

(*c*) Are no proper accounts of income and expenditure maintained in the Municipality?

(*d*) Does the Municipality prepare annual budgets showing the amounts under each head of revenue and expenditure?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) It is reported that there was no misappropriation but that there were delays in remitting collections.

(*b*) The names and designations of the officers responsible for the delays are given below. The President of the Municipal Council has reported that the punishment of suspension was considered sufficient.

No.	Name.	Designation.
1	Vasudevan Pillai ...	Conservancy Overseer.
2	Sivasankara Pillai ...	Do.
3	Ramakrishna Pillai ...	Aminadar.
4	K. Paramesvaran Pillai ...	Do.

(c) Proper accounts for the income and expenditure are reported to be maintained in the Municipality.

(d) Yes.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In regard to the answer to question (a), may I know what the extent of these delays is?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is reported that there was no misappropriation, but there were delays. I have not got full information and I shall call for it.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Are Government aware that the collections made in 1097 and 1098 were not brought into the accounts in 1098 or 1099?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government enquire as to the extent of the delays?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government enquire whether the amounts were not really misappropriated?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Checking of Furniture in Railway Stations.

74. MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are in the habit of checking the furniture and other conveniences provided by the S. I. R. Coy., for the use of travellers in the railway stations within Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The checking of furniture, etc., at railway stations is not done by the Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the Government keep a list of the furniture supplied to each of the railway stations within Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government do not keep a list.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has any complaint been made with respect to the absence of the necessary furniture in the railway stations in Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

[President.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have the Government considered such complaints ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. The attention of the Railway Company has been drawn to these complaints.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Government consider the necessity of checking the supply of furniture to each of the railway stations ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe the checking of furniture is an item of work connected with the internal administration of the railway. I do not know whether we shall be justified in interfering with it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is not the convenience of the passengers a matter for the consideration of Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If complaints are made in that respect, will the Government take into consideration the complaints of the various passengers affected ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, the attention of the Company will be drawn to the complaints.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If the Railway Company fail to do the needful in the matter, what is the course open to passengers to redress the grievance ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Passengers can also represent their grievance to the company.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it the position of Government that they themselves should not take the question into consideration ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government can strongly press the question on the attention of the Company.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Government see that they themselves also occasionally check the furniture supplied to the various stations ?

PRESIDENT: Check it in the sense that the furniture supply is adequate and meets the convenience of passengers—is that what you mean ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Not in that sense, but in the sense that the supply made in the various stations is actually there.

PRESIDENT: That is auditing.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Auditing and inspecting.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter which will have to be examined with reference to the terms of the agreement.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the agreement with the Railway Company permit the interference on the part of the Government at least to check the furniture supply in the various stations?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that unless I minutely examine the agreement.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Government be so good as to go into the agreement to see whether they have the power to do that?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Appendix I.

Vide Answer to Question No. 67.

Statement of work done by the Forest Utilisation Officer.

(1) He has corresponded with several timber trading firms in Calcutta, Bombay and other places with a view to find out the demand and the market rates of our timber.

(2) He has visited the timber yards in Madura, Tinnevelly and other places to find out whether better prices could be obtained for our *kongu* materials and other species available in our depôts.

(3) He has conducted a valuation of the bamboo and reed forests round about Punalur with a view to supplying materials for paper pulp manufacture.

(4) He has examined the forests and hills of the Vandanmet and Puppara Ranges with a view to see whether the instaliation of a wire shoot at Ramakkal Mettu is a profitable proposition.

(5) He has collected statistics *re.* export of minor forest produce from Travancore.

(6) He has experimented on leaves of *Bauhinia Malabarica* to see if they could be used for making *beedis*, etc.

Appendix II.

Vide Answer to Question No. 68.

Statement showing the lands available for assignment to members of the depressed classes in the various taluks.

No.	Taluks.	Area available.	No.	Taluks.	Area available.
		Acres.			Acres.
1	Tovala ...	3,912	17	Pattanamtitta ...	469
2	Agastisvaram ...	...	18	Pattanapuram ...	1,254
3	Kalkulam ...	608	19	Shencottah ...	32
4	Vilavankod ...	1,689	20	Changanachery ...	43
5	Neyyattinkara ...	316	21	Kottayam ...	21
6	Trivandrum ...	11	22	Shertallai ...	880
7	Nedumangad ...	876	23	Vaikam ...	264
8	Chirayinkil ...	651	24	Meenachil ...	314
9	Quilon ...	192	25	Todupuzha ...	594
10	Karunagapalli ...	...	26	Muvattupuzha ...	430
11	Kartigapalli ...	17	27	Kunnatnad ...	634
12	Kunnattur ...	667	28	Parur ...	48
13	Kottarakara ...	2,043	29	Devicolam ...	160
14	Ambalapuzha ...	862	30	Peermade ...	73
15	Mavelikara ...	316			
16	Tiruvalla ...	21		*Total* ...	17,397

Appendix III.

Vide Answer to Question No. 72 (A).

Revenue under Toddy.

Taluk.	1095	1096	1097	1098
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Shertallai ...	76,000	86,000	86,000	88,500
Vaikam ...	75,000	75,000	75,000	77,500
Kunnatnad ...	36,500	39,200	39,200	41,500
Alangad (the old revenue taluk) ...	40,500	42,500	42,500	44,000
Parur ...	35,000	37,000	37,000	38,500
Total ...	2,63,000	2,79,700	2,79,700	2,90,000

Appendix IV.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 72 (C).**

Statement showing the present staff and the additional staff proposed in the Ranges in which the independent shop system is to be introduced.

Present Staff.

Ranges.	Inspectors.	Sub Inspectors. 1st grade.	Sub Inspectors. 2nd grade.	Sub Inspectors. 3rd grade.	Sub Inspectors. Total.	Petty Officers. 1st grade.	Petty Officers. 2nd grade.	Petty Officers. 3rd grade.	Petty Officers. 4th grade.	Petty Officers. Total.	Peons. 1st grade.	Peons. 2nd grade.	Peons. 3rd grade.	Peons. 4th grade.	Peons. 5th grade.	Peons. Total.	Cost per mensem Rs.
Ambalapuzha ..	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	1	2	4	5	7	19	499⅙
Shertallai ...	1	1	1	...	2	...	2	1	3	6	1	2	11	14	24	52	810⅙
Vaikam ...	1	...	1	2	3	...	2	4	6	12	2	3	20	28	42	95	1,366⅙
Veluthully ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kunnatnad ...	1	...	...	2	2	...	2	...	2	4	3		12	17	27	59	830⅙
Alengad ...	1	...	2	...	2	..	1	2	1	4	1	2	7	10	14	34	597⅙
Parur ...	1	1	...	1	2	...	1	2	2	5	1	2	15	24	33	75	1,011⅙
Piravam ...	1		...	3	3	...	1	2	2	5	1	2	10	18	23	54	831⅙
Total ...	7	3	5	9	17	1	10	12	17	40	10	13	79	116	170	388	5,945⅙

Additional Staff proposed.

Ranges.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors. 1st grade.	Sub-Inspectors. 2nd grade.	Sub-Inspectors. 3rd grade.	Sub-Inspectors. Total.	Petty officers. 1st grade.	Petty officers. 2nd grade.	Petty officers. 3rd grade.	Petty officers. 4th grade.	Petty officers. Total.	Peons. 1st grade.	Peons. 2nd grade.	Peons. 3rd grade.	Peons. 4th grade.	Peons. 5th grade.	Peons. Total.	Increased Rs.	Increased cost per annum. Rs.
Ambalapuzha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	34	
Shertallai	...		...	2	2		...	...	3	3	1	...	...	4	6	11	222	
Vaikam	...	...	...	1	1	..	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	4	4	9	154	
Veluthully	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3	4	8	173⅔	
Kunnatnad	...	...	...	1	1		...	...	5	5	1	...	...	5	6	12	227	16,196
Alengad	..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	4	4	1	...	...	8	8	17	260	
Parur	...	...	...	1	1	.	..	...	5	5	1	...	...	5	8	14	245	
Piravam	...		...	...	...	...		...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	34	
Total	1	...	...	6	6	...	..	...	22	22	6	...	...	31	38	75	1,349⅔	

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND VII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—HUZUR CUTCHERRY, ETC.

***Motion 140.*—(Contd.)**

PRESIDENT: We will now resume the discussion on the budget. We were discussing motion No. 140.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I should like to offer some remarks about one or two of the important issues raised in his speech by Mr. Kumara Pillai. The question of importing foreign Dewans has been now before the public for some time and has been referred to in this Council more than once. The demand for appointing Travancoreans to the exclusion of foreigners has become more and more insistent.

PRESIDENT: May I point out one thing to the House? Strictly speaking, it is not relevant to the discussion of the motion before the House. I may remind the House that the questions of appointment of the Dewan and of an Executive Council are matters relating to the prerogative of the Ruler. Of course, representations made in regard to these matters are always placed before the Ruler and they are considered by the Ruler. But I do not think that they should form the subject of *discussion* in the Legislative Council. I do not mean to say that you should not refer to it at all. But to discuss it at length does not seem to be appropriate. The resolutions in regard to the appointment of an Executive Council have been disallowed by me on the ground that it is a matter which relates to the prerogative of the Sovereign.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): These are only suggestions.

PRESIDENT: That is why I did not stop Mr. Kumara Pillai from talking about it.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I proceed, Sir?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The three main grounds advanced against the importation of such men are that they are mostly British Indian civilians looking to that Government for official preferments, that they have no permanent interest in the country and that the system discourages native talent. The first two grounds may be met by several counter-arguments showing that we stand to gain by infusing fresh blood into our administration, by obtaining the services of men of wider outlook and greater experience of administrative problems and of men who are untainted with the local caste and religious prejudices. But I believe the third ground against such importation is unanswerable. No one can deny that we have the right to order our own house in our own way. Self-preservation is the first law of nature as of all civilised societies. The

absence of any prospect of coming to the top of the administration, so far as our own men are concerned, has a most depressing effect on them. Their aspirations do not soar beyond certain heights. They do not grow to their full stature so that men with brilliant university careers easily become a prey to caste and sectional prejudices and deteriorate to mediocrities and pass off as being fit only to occupy second-rate and third-rate posts in the public service. I feel that, to a certain extent, they dig their own grave of official preferments. Even though men are mostly what their environments make them, it behoves at least the best of us who want to control the high affairs of the State, to rise superior to the narrow prejudices of their surroundings and thrust their heads above the layers of mephitic air and breathe in purer atmosphere and grow to complete manhood and be a credit to themselves and to their country. I have reasons to believe that our officers are often put to a great strain by men of their own communities and compelled to accept their point of view. There are very few indeed who can rise above these baneful influences. Men of strong convictions, men whose sense of justice transcends the limits of their sects and castes and whose moral rectitude does not stop with the punishment of their subordinates—it is these men who alone are able to rise superior to their surroundings. They will have the interests of the whole country at heart and will regard all communities as equally entitled to their sympathy and consideration. There can be no doubt that the administration of the country in their hands is bound to be successful and would be productive of lasting good to the country. But it is the duty of us all to create an atmosphere where the development of such outstanding personalities is rendered possible.

Now I should like to add one qualification to my support of Mr. Kumara Pillai's proposition in this respect. Mr. Kumara Pillai's view is that we should, on no account, have a Dewan from outside. I am sorry I cannot agree with him there. If the right sort of man is available in Travancore, let us by all means have him. He may be even much inferior to the best man that may be selected from outside. If our own man has the necessary talent, broad vision and outlook, we shall certainly forgo the luxury of having an abler man from outside. The Dewan is the highest officer in the country and his inefficiency and incapacity will be a serious calamity. Therefore, if, at any time, we have not got the proper man in the local market, we must have the freedom to import from outside a man competent to administer the State.

There is another aspect of the question which has been apparently lost sight of. Patriotism is indeed a noble virtue, but it is better to avoid the appearance of provincialism and parochialism. "Travancore for Travancoreans" like "Mysore for Mysoreans" is a cry often heard in the press and on the platform. Is it not enough to limit this cry to all appointments except the highest? In this connection, two considerations must weigh with us in coming to a conclusion. Vast changes are taking place in the Government of British India. We cannot entirely cut ourselves off from British India. In fact, it is up to us

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to claim to be heard in the ordering of the vast changes that are coming over that country. I think it was during the recent budget debate that Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to this aspect of our political life. Secondly, we are sending some of our best men to compete for the Indian Civil Service. They will soon come to occupy some of the most coveted positions in that service. Does it fairly lie in our mouth to say, while we are sharing in the official loaves and fishes in British India, that we would slam our door against all outsiders in respect of all appointments? I doubt whether wisdom lies that way. The ordering of the Indian Civil Service is soon bound to be in the hands of the Indian Legislature. I ask, why not leave the door a little open at least in order to avoid a conflict with British Indian opinion?

I hope I will not be misunderstood. I am speaking for myself and not as representing any community. I cannot conceal the fact that the backward communities have been prospering under this foreign administration though latterly in a diminishing proportion. These communities are therefore thankful. But it does not follow that they would not fare equally well under native Dewans of the right sort. And it is well and proper that native talent is tested. I hope it will not fail to rise equal to the occasion.

The second point I wish to refer to is the constitution of an Executive Council. The world has long begun to dislike one-man rule. It is good both for the Dewan and the people that he is assisted by a Council sharing responsibility with him for the laying down of policy and the carrying on of the administration of the country. Most of the evils of having foreign Dewans pointed out by Mr. Kumara Pillai will vanish if the Dewan is assisted by an Executive Council. I have not heard any valid argument advanced against the establishment of the Council. I have therefore great pleasure in giving my unreserved support to that proposition.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I heartily support Mr Kumara Pillai's motion. As the Huzur Secretariat forms the motor nerve of the whole administrative body, a discussion on this motion cannot but relate to the all-comprehensive State policy. I doubt whether there will be any real divergence of opinion with regard to the appointment of Travancoreans as Dewans of the State. For an unbroken period of very many decades, Travancore has not had the fortune to have a Dewan of her own though education has made rapid strides in the State. One can understand the importation of distinguished foreign administrators as Dewans of the State when Travancore was educationally backward. But now such a course is insulting to the intelligence and capacity of the educated citizens of the country. There are officers of capacity and distinguished citizens in the country able to conduct the administration of the country as well as any Dewans appointed from outside. The one argument which is advanced against such a proposition is that a Travancorean

Dewan will become the apple of discord for the several communities that inhabit the State. If such petty and unreasonable jealousies were to stand in our way, I should be very glad to welcome foreign Dewans. But the people have come to realise the folly of such a suicidal policy; and, as far as I am able to understand, there is unanimity of opinion in favour of appointing a Travancorean as Dewan. Whatever else may be the fault of a Travancorean Dewan, he cannot but be patriotic. He will also feel that even after retirement he will have to live amidst the Travancoreans. I do not wish to belittle the work of able and patriotic foreign Dewans who had won the love and esteem of the people. The best motive that actuates a foreign Dewan to advance the interests of the people will be the love of reputation. A foreign Dewan will be satisfied with the favours of the British Government and the Maha Raja. When intricate questions involving the relationship between Travancore and the British Government are discussed, foreign Dewans have invariably failed to satisfy the public with regard to their actions. Very many important subjects are excluded from the purview of this Council. A foreign Dewan who is entrusted with these subjects is not expected to know the people or to identify himself with the interests of the people.

Mr. Kumara Pillai also dealt with the inauguration of an Executive Council. I am not specially inclined towards the creation of an Executive Council. But I am against this one-man rule. It is impossible for the Dewan to adequatety supervise the working of the several departments. The final decision of one man without due consultation with others is bound to be defective. The complaint made by the mover that the Dewan entirely relies on the representations of his subordinates is quite true. The Dewan has not sufficient time to enquire into the details of administration. When the Law Member relied on the report of the District Magistrate of Kottayam with regard to *Satyagraha* as gospel truth in the teeth of strong adverse reports, I came to realise that the Government were not at all responsible to the people. If the Dewan and other officers felt that they had to satisfy the people for every one of their actions, such a course would not have been adopted. Call it an Executive Council or a Cabinet, we want a deliberative and advisory body of members to assist the Dewan and to be in charge of separate departments. These members should be responsible to the representatives of the people and should be liable to be removed by them. There is no use adding to the number of bureaucrats by appointing one or two officials as members of an Executive Council. The whole country demands a responsible Council of the sort mentioned by me. The interests of democracy require the constitution of a Council of Ministers. Each Dewan now tries to break away from the policy pursued by his predecessor. If you want continuity of policy in the administration or efficiency in the public service, you must have an Executive Council or a Council of Ministers. A Travancorean Dewan with a Council of Ministers to assit him is the ideal of young educated Travancore. When that ideal is attained, many of the ills which the

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country is heir to will be completely eradicated. Then there will be no attempt to swell the coffers of the State as a mark of statesmanship. The policy of "divide and rule" will be relegated to the limbo of oblivion. (*Hear, hear.*) This House as a body must request Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent that, at least when the next Dewan is appointed, the wishes of the people may be favourably considered.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I welcome unreservedly the agitation in favour of Travancorean Dewans. Mr. Kumara Pillai, so far as I am able to see, only stands for a principle and is not against any man or any set of men; and he began his speech by paying a glorious tribute to those gentlemen from outside who came here as our Dewans and administered the country to the best of their ability and in the best interests of the State. Government have admitted that Travancoreans are sufficiently educated and they have also been taking a good deal of complacent satisfaction for spending so much money on educational activities in the State. Though His Highness the Maha Raja's College has been going on for about sixty years and many of her *alumni* have distinguished themselves in learning, capacity, and character, we find that, during all these years, there has not been a single *alumnus* of His Highness the Maha Raja's College who has been fortunate enough to become the Dewan of Travancore and work for the country in that high and trusted position.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Arts*): May I ask Mr. Velu Pillai whether he has considered the case of Mr. Sankarasubbier, an old *alumnus* of the College?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. Sankarasubbier was not a graduate.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Arts*): Mr. Velu Pillai referred to the *alumni* of the College and not to graduates.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I only referred to persons who had been educated in a college strictly so called and took their degrees.

PRESIDENT: That need not necessarily mean a graduate.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I leave it, Sir. This is all I have to say. Further, Mr. Sankarasubbier was educated at a time when the present Maha Raja's College was not in existence. Let us not go to ancient history. (*Laughter.*)

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Arts*): Was the Maha Raja's College in existence sixty years ago?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. Sankarasubbier was educated more than sixty years ago.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Arts*) : Has the Maha Raja's College been in existence for the last sixty years?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It was not in existence at the time Mr. Sankarasubbier was educated.

Therefore, the feelings of Travancoreans ought to be respected when they desire that they should have a Travancorean as Dewan. There is also the further fact that, as the political machinery is at present constituted, the Dewan is the soul-giving force of the administration and the other officers are inferior luminaries adding lustre to the firmament of glory of which the Dewan is the centre. So, if a Travancorean is placed at the centre of that system and if that Travancorean happens to be efficient and patriotic, the people of Travancore expect very great things from him.

On the other side of the line, however, there are facts which there is no use in glossing over. It has been said that there is much of communal strife in the State. It has been said that communities are warring against one another. There are also people who may say that all this alleged warfare does not exist. But we find that, at the time of the municipal elections or the elections to the Legislative Council, the subject on the platform on which the whole question is talked of is one of caste. There is also the clash of religions. I for one am not prepared to believe that there is absolute solidarity of interest between the different sections of the people. I do not agree to the proposal that, because there is this difficulty, we should never have a Travancorean Dewan. Government should see that, by very systematised work, these differences cease to exist and solidarity and homogeneity of interest are created; because it is a sacred trust that Government must encourage the feelings of amity between the various communities. Sir, even in wider spheres, such as British India, in spite of all that people might say in favour of *Swaraj* and Hindu-Muslim unity, we find that the whole question of peace is jeopardised by communal bickerings and clash of religious interest. Much more will it be so in smaller spheres like Travancore. Suppose there are these difficulties. Suppose also that there is the feeling on the part of educated Travancoreans that they should get a Travancorean as their Dewan. It has been pointed out, Sir, that the appointment of the Dewan is a matter of royal prerogative. I freely concede that position. All that we do in this Council is to respectfully submit, for the consideration of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, that the feelings of the people and their aspirations may be taken into consideration when appointments are made. I am not in favour of any drastic rule that on no account should an outsider be appointed as Dewan, because, if there is a man of towering personality, character, capacity and reputation who is prepared to come to Travancore on three or four thousand rupees a month and if it happens at the same time that, in the public service of Travancore or among the non-officials here, there is no one with anything like the

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

same capacity, then certainly the outsider may be appointed. But instances like that are necessarily rare. Now that democratic institutions have been brought into existence and encouraged by the enlightened policy of the Government, the Legislative Council itself will serve as a check on the appointment of foreigners as Dewans in the usual course, because, in the light of all this feeling on the part of the people, if a gentleman from outside is appointed Dewan, there will be much resentment in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council. There will be a regular clamour and the Sovereigns of Travancore will, in future, carefully consider the question of appointing Dewans.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the time?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not wish to take more time on this question. I have got to mention one more point. Although the appointment of the Dewan is the prerogative of Her Highness, there is a good way of enforcing the rights of Travancoreans and representing the wishes of the subjects. If in three successive meetings of the Legislative Council and in one meeting of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly there is the vote of an absolute two-thirds majority expressing want of confidence in a particular Dewan, the Sovereign for the time being will be morally compelled to remove that Dewan.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I rise to a point of order regarding the use of the words 'moral compulsion' as applied to the Sovereign.

PRESIDENT: He only spoke of *moral* compulsion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): We can only exert moral compulsion and not physical compulsion. I object to these words.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you can exert physical compulsion against one another even here. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In the light of your explanation, Sir, I do not think I need answer Mr. Hoogewerf. Wherever there is legal or moral responsibility, there is some moral compulsion also.

I wish to emphasise one more point. Whatever be the feeling in the country and however much we wish to have a Travancorean as our Dewan, let us not view the question in a narrow spirit. It has been stated by Mr. Kumaran, for example, that there are brilliant men of Travancore who are occupying high positions in British India and in other Indian States. Suppose the people of British India and other Indian States begin to retaliate upon Travancoreans and say that they are not going to have Travancoreans in their service. That is a very serious matter. Therefore, let us not view the matter in any narrow spirit. Let us express our wish that we shall be happy in case Travancoreans are appointed as Dewans when there are properly qualified men. Let it not appear that we view the question in a very

narrow spirit so as to provoke retaliation. Let not Travancore suffer thereby at the present day when there is so much talk of Indianisation of the services and national regeneration of India.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): It is rather unfortunate that a question of such magnitude and importance should have been raised for discussion as a side-issue on a motion for the reduction of Rs. 100 from the total allotment for the Huzur Cutcherry. Sir, since it has been ruled that no other occasion would be given to the House for the discussion of such questions which have been declared to vest in the prerogative of the Ruler, I submit that the representations that we are making in connection with this motion may be taken to be only certain well-understood, well-considered wishes of the members of this House that should guide the Ruler in taking any action in regard to such matters.

As rightly observed by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion is not directed against any particular person or class of persons as foreigners. The only principle that we are fighting for is that, since it has been observed as a hard and fast rule, as it were, for the past several decades, that Travancoreans cannot aspire to the very highest position of trust and responsibility in the administration of State, it is only legitimate that the people should feel keenly in this matter. It may be even treated as a question of the prestige of Travancoreans. In spite of the boasted intelligence and public-spiritedness, education and enlightenment of Travancoreans, the highest place in the administration of the country is not open to a son of the soil. It may be that Travancoreans are unfit for the place. It may be that sufficient occasions do not arise. It may be that we do not get Travancoreans efficient enough for the post. I ask, what else is the possibility? You have been treating Travancoreans in such a manner that their ideals fall short of the highest place. They have not had that incentive to work themselves up to the highest place in the administration. Their highest aims could be perhaps only for appointment as the head of a district or the head of a particular department. That has been our fate and it is therefore that the capacity for taking initiative has been cramped on account of the treatment accorded to them in the past several decades. It is therefore high time now that Travancore, which is the training ground for the British Indian worthies who are occupying positions of trust elsewhere with conspicuous ability and eminence, should also be the training ground for Travancoreans to become worthy of their own education and in keeping with their self-respect in their own native land. (*Mr. A. Hoogewerf: Hear, hear.*) Sir, it is demoralising for us to forget the principle of self-determination that has been so well recognised.

It has been mentioned that there are several communities warring against one another and that there is not absolute solidarity of interest among the various communities in the State. No doubt, that is true to a certain extent. But to argue that that particular fact should be so highly exaggerated as to remove from the path of the Travancorean his legitimate dues, is a position that could be hardly sustained. Because when

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

we get an outsider, even he cannot help belonging to one or other of the communities that are warring against one an other in Travancore. That is not the case in British India, because it is the European that gets the upper hand there and he does not belong to any caste or community.

PRESIDENT: Is there not the European community in British India, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): But in the sense in which warring between the communities is spoken of, the European community is not a community there. The complaint in British India is that there is no union between the Muslims and the Hindus, between the Christians and the Hindus and so on. The difficulty there is about the full Indianisation of the services. Such difficulties do not exist in Travancore. Therefore that question may be left apart.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai if he is not aware that, in the previous meeting of the Legislative Council, several members suggested, for the consideration of Government, that a European officer should be put in charge of flood relief work?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I submit that question does not appear to me to be in any way relevant for the discussion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): That is for the Chair to decide.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I am just stating my opinion of it and I have got the option of answering the question put to me. I say that that question is not in any way relevant.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Was it not because Mr. Robinson was found to be a thoroughly efficient officer?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has not yet answered the question of Mr. Velu Pillai. Therefore you cannot put a further question on that.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That was exactly the answer that I was about to give. The conflict between the various communities should not be taken as a ground for tabooing Travancoreans from the place of Dewanship. If, however, Mr. Robinson or any other person has been appointed in charge of a particular matter, that depends entirely upon the qualification of that particular gentleman to do that particular work. We are at a general question and not concerned with the work of any particular department. So then, it is rather unfortunate, Sir, that we have to put that forward as a plea that we Travancoreans should be put in charge of the administration. This position of ours is due to the fact that for the last several decades we have not had that opportunity. We now wish that we are restored to the original position in which we were formerly. These are only our humble submissions to our Ruler for kind consideration.

In regard to the other question about the Executive Council, Sir, that question cannot be so easily disposed of by a short discussion of this nature. The question deserves a careful and thorough discussion and unfortunately we are not able to do it here. I have only to endorse the statement of Mr. Madhava Variar that there is no good in having an Executive Council with two or three new officers. The creation of two or more officers who will only be on a par with the Dewan of the State is *not* what is wanted. (*Hear, hear.*) We want an Executive body which would be *responsible* to the Legislature. That is our aim, our ideal. If the goal of representative institutions is to be reached, then my humble suggestion is that the essentials necessary for that must not be forgotten. The mere form and nomenclature of representative institutions is absolutely useless without the fundamentals vitally necessary. The executive body should be made responsible and accountable to this House. If the goal is popular or representative Government, then the lines on which it is to be constituted should be clearly laid down and in so doing the fundamentals and essentials should not be forgotten. It is therefore our humble submission that, in case an Executive Council is created, we wish very much that it is made responsible to this Legislature.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, in regard to the observations made on the other side of the House about the policy of appointing foreigners to the Dewanship of this State and the necessity for the creation of an Executive Council, I have very little to add to what has already been mentioned by the President, *viz.*, that they are matters which relate to the prerogative of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and that we shall not be justified in discussing them in this Council. I may, however, assure the House that the Government will see that the representations made on the subject are duly submitted to Her Highness.

I do not propose to deal with the various alleged acts of omission and commission on the part of foreign Dewans.

Mr. Kumara Pillai said that certain leases had been granted to the prejudice of this State. He has not given me the particulars of the leases and so I am not in a position to deal with them.

In regard to the Cochin Harbour, I do not know whether Mr. Kumara Pillai has read the Press Communiqué issued by the Madras Government and republished in our *Government Gazette.*

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I have read it.

MR. R KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If we participate in the Cochin Harbour Scheme, I do not know how we shall be justified in claiming a share of the gross profits.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know whether that question can be discussed at all in that manner. If allowed, several other points of view may also have to be considered.

PRESIDENT: He is not discussing it. He is only pointing out that, if there are three parties to a transaction and if they agree to share

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

the profits, naturally they are entitled to a share only in the *net* profits and not in the *gross* profits.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Another point dealt with by Mr. Kumara Pillai was the absence of a free flow of officers between the Secretariat and the executive departments. I believe I have already mentioned in this Council itself on a previous occasion that such an exchange of officers is not possible until the officers of the Secretariat and of the non-technical executive departments are put in the same or similar *cadre*. The question of equalising the *cadres* of gazetted officers is being examined by the Government.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): May I say a few words?

PRESIDENT: There is no time.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ദിവാൻജിമാരെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതും എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കൌൺസിൽ സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ടതും രാജാധികാരത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടതാണെന്ന് എനിക്കറിയാം. രാജാധികാരത്തിലുൾപ്പെട്ടസംഗതികളിൽ ആക്രമിക്കണമെന്ന ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ രാജാംഗത്തെ ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ പിതൃതുല്യമായിട്ടാണ് കരുതിവരുന്നത്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളും അപേക്ഷകളും രാജസന്നിധാനത്തിൽ അറിയിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആഗ്രഹം പാരമ്പര്യമായുള്ളതായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. സ്വദേശീയരെ ദിവാൻജിമാരായി നിയമിക്കുന്ന കാര്യമോ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കൌൺസിൽ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാര്യമോ നിയമസഭയിൽ പ്രതിപാദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്ന വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. സ്വദേശീയദിവാൻജിമാരെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ട കാര്യത്തിലും എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കൌൺസിൽ സ്ഥാപിച്ചുകിട്ടേണ്ട കാര്യത്തിലും പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് എത്രത്തോളം താല്പര്യമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു രാജസന്നിധിയിൽ അറിയിക്കുന്നതിന് ഈഅവസരത്തെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തി എന്നേയുള്ളൂ.

സ്വദേശീയദിവാൻജിമാരെത്തന്നെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്ന പറയുന്നതിന് എന്നെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാരണങ്ങൾ എന്റെ പ്രസംഗമദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ വ്യക്തമായി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ അവകാശത്തേയും അഭിമാനത്തേയും രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ടാണെന്ന് വീണ്ടും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലേക്കായി ആണ്ടുതോറും നാല്പതു ലക്ഷം രൂപായോളം ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ മുന്നണിയെ പ്രാപിച്ചു നില്ക്കുന്നു. എന്നിരുന്നിട്ടും, ഈ നാട്ടിനെ ഭരിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇവിടെ ആളില്ലെന്നു വരുന്നത് ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏററവും അഭിമാനക്ഷയമായിട്ടാണ്

ങ്ങൾ കരുതുന്നത്. ഇവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻപദം അതിലേക്കു പ്രാപ്തനും യോഗ്യനുമായ ഏതു മതസ്ഥനും കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ എനിക്കാക്ഷേപമില്ല. ഇവിടെയുള്ള ജാതിസ്പർദ്ധയെപ്പററി എൻെറ സ്നേഹിതന്മാരിൽ ചിലർ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ജാതിസ്പർദ്ധയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു പ്രധാനമായി പട്ടണങ്ങളിലാണ്. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം ഉദ്യോഗസമ്പാദനത്തിലുള്ള മത്സരമാണ്. ഇവിടെയുള്ള നാല്പതുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്ക സർവ്വീസിൽ പതിനേഴായിരത്തിൽപരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളേ ഉള്ളു എന്നാണ് തോന്നുന്നത്. ആ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കിട്ടുന്നതിലും ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിരോധമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അവർ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നതും അവക്കു കിട്ടേണ്ടതും നിഷ്കളങ്കമായ പബ്ലിക്ക സർവീസാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസമ്പാദനത്തിൽ വന്നുകൂടുന്നതായ ജാതിമത്സരത്തിനു കാരണഭൂതന്മാർ സ്വദേശികളാണോ എന്നെനിക്കു സംശയമാണ്.

വിദേശീയദിവാൻജിയായാലും സ്വദേശീയദിവാൻജിയായാലും, പല കാരണങ്ങളാലും വന്നുകൂടീട്ടുള്ള ജാതിസ്പർദ്ധയെ എളുപ്പം പരിഹരിക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. മേലാലെങ്കിലും അങ്ങനെ വരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആയതു വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനും ആണ് സ്വദേശീയദിവാൻജിമാർവേണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്.

വിദേശീയ ദിവാൻജിമാരോട് എനിക്കശേഷം ബഹുമാനക്കുറവില്ല. അനേകം വിദേശീയദിവാൻജിമാരെ എനിക്കടുത്തറിയാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവർ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ഓരോ പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും ജനങ്ങൾ നന്ദിയുള്ളവരാണ്. എന്നിരുന്നാലും, അവർ പല ഭരണന്യൂനതകളും വരുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതിലേക്കവരെ ഞാൻ കുററപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനെക്കാൾ അതിലേക്കവരെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അവരുടെ നിലയുടെ വൈഷമ്യത്തെയാണ് ഞാൻ കുററപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്. അതിനാൽ ആ വക വൈഷമ്യങ്ങളെ തീർത്തു രാജ്യക്ഷേമം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഉള്ള സൌകര്യം മഹാറാണി തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനുണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നത്. ഈ സംഗതികളെ കൌൺസിലിൻെറ ഗൌരവമായ ആലോചനയ്ക്കു വിഷയമാക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ എനിക്കു വിചാരമുള്ളു. അതു സാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 141.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

"*141. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,100 for Legislative Council by Rs. 100.*"

I have only to make a few suggestions of minor importance with regard to the conduct of work in the Council.

My first suggestion is that the right of asking supplementary questions should not be confined to those who ask the questions. Rule 14 should be so amended as to enable all members to put supplementary questions on any question that has been answered in the Council.

Another suggestion that I have to make is that the rules regarding the meetings of the Select Committees should be made more stringent so as to compel the attendance of members and to ensure speedy disposal of business. The reports of the Select Committee should be submitted as speedily as possible.

There is a legitimate matter of complaint with respect to one or two resolutions which have not been given effect to.

I would also refer to the necessity of supplying all possible information to the non-official members in order to enable them to study the subjects with which they have to deal. All Government publications, such as reports of committees of enquiry, should be sent to them as promptly as possible. We know that Government are ready to oblige us whenever we ask for such publications, but it seems to me that it would be better to send them to the members as a matter of course. A publication like the "Mysore Blue Book Journal" would have served the purpose of giving up-to-date information to non-official members and the public. We have got a very efficient staff in the Legislative Section and they may be entrusted with the work; and I take this opportunity to offer a word of praise to the Reporters and the staff of the Legislative Section who have been always willing to oblige us with whatever information we required.

The Council Library has grown considerably, but the problem of finding suitable accommodation for it has to be solved. The absence of a common room for consultation and a reference library ready to hand during the sittings of the Council is keenly felt by the non-official members. The question of having a Council Chamber has again to be postponed for want of funds. It is, however, a matter of the utmost importance to have a suitable building for this Council and the Popular Assembly. It will be a fitting memorial to the great Sovereign author of this Council and of the Assembly which bears His Highness' name.

The important reform of the Legislative Council by the creation of an Executive Council responsible to it is a question requiring early consideration.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I have very little to say by way of reply. In regard to the creation of the Executive Council, I have already said what I had to say. The other suggestions made by my friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai will be duly considered.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I have very great pleasure in seconding what Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has said in connection with the work of the Legislative Section.

The main topic that has been brought forward by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai is the creation of an Executive Council. With respect to that, I heard it mentioned during the discussion on the previous motion that this House is attempting to trench upon the prerogative of the Sovereign authority. I am sorry I cannot take that view. In one sense, anything that is suggested or recommended by this House cannot but affect the prerogative of the Sovereign. So far as we are concerned, everything is centred in the Sovereign. So, if we are to keep aside all that we have to say simply on the ground of the prerogative of the Sovereign, there may not be anything at all to be urged by this side of the House. The creation, therefore, of an Executive Council responsible to this House is a subject which in my humble view of the matter, falls clearly within the privileges of this House.

PRESIDENT: May I point out that I have given my ruling and that you are criticising my ruling? I do not think it is in order.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very sorry. I never understood it as a ruling from the Chair. I thought that it was only a suggestion. I do not think that you can find a more compliant person than myself to bow to the ruling from the Chair.

PRESIDENT: What I said was that, so far as the discussion and voting of the proposal for an Executive Council was concerned, since it was a matter connected with the prerogative of the Sovereign, the Council would not be in order to discuss and vote upon it. I did not say that Mr. Kumara Pillai should not speak upon it, because the suggestions and representations made in regard to that matter will be submitted, as all suggestions and representations made in this Council are being submitted, to the Ruler. I felt I should not prevent the House from making suggestions and representations; but I thought it was not in order to discuss and vote upon a matter which is strictly the prerogative of the Ruler. Hence my ruling. It is for that reason that I have disallowed the resolution on the subject of the Executive Council. In that sense it was a ruling from the Chair.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I thought it was simply a suggestion thrown out to members for regulating the discussion of the question that was before the House.

If it is a ruling from the Chair, let me make it very clear to you, Sir, that it is far from my mind to attempt to taste the forbidden fruit. (*Laughter.*) Then I simply express my desire that the Executive Council may be brought into existence. (*Laughter.*)

Another point raised in connection with Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's motion had reference to a suitable accommodation for the House itself. I have sent in a motion myself upon that subject and I would reserve my views upon it till that motion comes up for discussion.

As regards the Council library, one finds it rather difficult occasionally to be in the library to consult the volumes in the library without

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

taking away the books. That is a matter which requires some attention on the part of the President. Members may be given sufficient accommodation in the library room for the purpose of reference temporarily there.

Then, there are other questions, Sir, which I would press upon the attention of the House in connection with the work of the House. The distinction that is now observed, no doubt under the Statute, between the official side and the non-official side is a very rigid one, and I am just proposing for your consideration whether there should not be an attempt on the part of the Government and of this House to diminish the distinction as far as possible and entrust the official business to some of the non-official members also. (*Laughter.*) For example, in the matter of drafting bills and in other directions—

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I ask whether there is any objection to the non-official members undertaking it now?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): By way of reply to my esteemed friend Mr. Subba Aiyar, especially with reference to legislative business, may I point out that it is not because of any objection that is thrown in the path of the non-official members that they are reluctant to undertake it? The Regulation and Rules are such that, even though a non-official member may be in the Council during the whole of its life, it may be practically impossible for him to carry through any measure. The rules are so framed that, if a Bill emanates from the official side, it has got the safety of being carried on even if it outlives the normal period of the duration of the Council. In the case of non-official Bills, they will share the ordinary fate of any other—

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Unless the member is returned and he revives it, or some other member takes it up.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There is no good in relying on "unless," "but," "if" and such other contingencies.

PRESIDENT: I am not sure if you are strictly right in regard to what you have said about the official Bills. Let us take the case of the Village Panchayat Bill and its progress.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is because my friend Mr. Subba Aiyar has got too many irons in the fire. He has got a big Bill like the Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill. Then there are contentious measures like the Nanjinad Vellala Bill in respect of which we are practically taking new evidence. If we are confronted with such measures, of course the progress will be a little tardy. Slow and steady is the way with our Select Committees.

PRESIDENT: Is it not so in the case of non-official Bills also?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There is also the difficulty there that it requires further stages to pull it through.

The official member will be able to close or complete a particular Bill that he may introduce. In all these directions, I am only suggesting this, to break down the barrier that now exists between the non-official and official sides as far as possible in the practical working of the business of this Council. And it is that aim that I am just placing before the House for consideration. With these observations, I have very great pleasure in seconding the suggestions made by my friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I just want to make one or two observations. We must all be allowed to join in the interpellation as is done in Madras, and to put supplementary questions.

PRESIDENT: I know it is done in the Legislative Assembly.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): I have got a copy of the Madras Standing Orders. It is allowed in the Madras Council.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I also suggest that we may be given a little more time. Fifteen minutes is too short a time to prepare supplementary questions. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: You have been making very good use of the allotted fifteen minutes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With very great strain upon me. (*Laughter.*) The whole thing is placed upon the table and above board. What harm is there in allowing us half an hour instead of a quarter of an hour? In the short time that is now allowed, we can only ask questions in a very slipshod fashion. If more time is allowed, we will ask questions in better order and with great effect.

Another suggestion that I have to make is about the distribution of the electric fans. As it is, they are not evenly distributed. I get very little breeze as also other members on the back benches.

PRESIDENT: This is only a temporary *habitat*. When we get a Legislative Council hall, all the conveniences will be provided for.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When others are enjoying the luxury we are without it. The visitors also will be very much obliged if a few more fans are added on.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): My friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai observed that Select Committee Reports should be submitted much earlier than they are done now. I daresay Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai knows very well that the difficulty sometimes is in finding a quorum to conduct business, for which the official member in charge is certainly not responsible, because he is always present.

As for the suggestion of Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai that the non-official members should also have a share in introducing Bills, I, for one, have always welcomed non-official Bills, because that course will certainly relieve to a very great extent the official member in charge

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of the Bills. If non-official members would gladly undertake a certain amount of responsibility in regard to it, for instance, the Vakil's Regulation which stands in need of considerable amendment might be taken up by any one of the non-official members and brought up-to-date. So also, in the case of other bills. I do not know what difficulty or doubt or difference Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai feels in the matter. Three years is certainly too long a period for any Bill to be got through. I do not know of any instance of a Bill having lapsed on account of three years being not sufficient. That depends upon other circumstances. Even otherwise, whether it is in the Madras Legislative Council or in the Legislative Assembly, non-official Bills are introduced and passed without many of them lapsing. Even if any lapses at the end of three years, of course, if the member is returned or if any other member wants to go on with that Bill, there is no difficulty whatsoever. The difficulty has not been as yet felt here. There has been only one non-official Bill through the whole life of this Council, namely the Nayar Bill. More Bills ought to be forthcoming.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai said that the non-official members should be asked to introduce Bills on behalf of the Government, that is, official Bills.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know whether my friend knows what it means to ask a non-official member to draft a bill. He may send in a bill of costs for the purpose after drafting the Bill. That is a matter to be seriously taken into consideration. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Is there any precedent where a Government Bill is given to a non-official member for introduction?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Not ordinarily.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I am glad that Government are prepared to give early effect to the suggestions made by me. I have nothing further to add.

PRESIDENT: Government did not promise anything. They only said that they would examine and consider.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): It was said that the Government were prepared to consider the question.

PRESIDENT: Yes. Government are prepared to examine and do all that they can.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Most of these suggestions can very easily be given effect to. Mr. Subba Aiyar was complaining of the difficulty of finding a quorum in the Select Committees. In regard to that, there must be a stringent rule to enforce the attendance of the members.

PRESIDENT: Even in this Council the members are not bound to attend on all occasions.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): In regard to the work in the Select Committees my idea is that a rule should be provided to enforce the attendance of the members. A good deal of important work has to be done in the Select Committees and it is absolutely necessary that provision should be made for enforcing the attendance of the members.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is he in favour of coercive process to enforce the attendance of members?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I am in favour of any proposal which will enforce their attendance.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is he prepared to go to the extent of the arrest and imprisonment of the members for the purpose?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I do not think it is necessary to go to the extent of arrest and imprisonment. Probably that may prevent the members from attending committee meetings. I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 142.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I beg to move the following motion:—

142. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,100 for Legislative Council by Rs. 100.

Sir, the object of the motion is this. Unfortunately, under the Regulation and the rules, we are not permitted to discuss important questions relating to the Legislative Council, and we have to confine our attention to comparatively minor matters, such as accommodation, library, etc. Still, without trenching upon forbidden ground, I may be permitted to point out two or three facts for the consideration of Government.

Firstly, in regard to the appointment and the salary of the Deputy President. In the budget estimate for 1100, we find an allotment to the extent of Rs. 3,000 as allowance to the Deputy President, and it has been classified as a non-votable item. Sir, in the first place, while being jealous to be strict to the letter of the law, I would certainly submit that the law does not prohibit, as it is, the salary or allowance of the Deputy President being voted upon. So I raise the point. It is only a question of principle I wish to raise in this motion. I am not at all concerned with personalities. It is, as you know, Sir, the privilege of other legislatures in British India to elect their own Deputy President and vote his salary. In our case, the Regulation declares that "Our Government shall appoint a Deputy President." I would only submit that there is nothing disparaging to the Dewan or the Government in asking the Council to elect a person and submit

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

his name to the Government. In that case, the purpose will be gained without altering the law itself. Further, before the Deputy President is paid any amount, it is desirable that his salary should be made votable by the House. Under the Regulation, it is only salaries or allowances of *officers* that are declared to be non-votable and those cannot be voted. The Deputy President will not be termed an official as defined in the Regulation, because it is only an officer in the Civil List having pensionable appointment that will come under that category.

Another fact that I wish to point out is that the proportion of officials and non-officials in this House may be varied in favour of the non-officials. Past experience, that is, the experience gained during the last two years, must have shown that it is a very narrow minority that disposes of questions of much importance against non-officials, and in such cases the proportion that we are now having is only 56 per cent. of the elected non-officials out of fifty members. Now we have got fifteen official members on the other side and one at least of them is not interested in the discussions of the House because his department is non-votable. In regard to another department, there is a superfluity.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Which is that?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*). The Education Department. All the other departments have got only one member to represent. Not that we underrate the presence of any member on the official side. We have derived valuable help from such members. But all the same my submission is that it is a matter of preserving a certain proportion between the officials and non-officials. Every attempt must be made to see whether it will not be possible to give us a fair chance. Now 56 per cent. of the elected non-officials constitute all the 23 constituencies and the five seats for special electorates. Sir, we should at least have a clear majority out of the seats for territorial constituencies. That has been my contention, and that contention, I submit, may be given effect to even under the existing Regulation. The term of this Council is drawing to a close and a suitable opportunity is now available.

PRESIDENT: What reasons have you to adduce in favour of that suggestion?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, our Legislative Council Regulation is mainly based upon the Government of India Act and we find that in the provincial legislatures not less than 70 per cent. are elected non-officials.

PRESIDENT: But you are talking about territorial constituencies and suggesting an increase in their number.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I draw a distinction between territorial constituencies and special constituencies.

PRESIDENT: You think that territorial constituencies are more representative than special electorates. What is your reason for that?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The particular reason is this, viz., that the representatives of particular interests in the House cannot be said to view questions of general importance affecting the masses with that degree of disinterestedness which the members representing the masses out of the territorial constituencies will view. It is that sense of disinterestedness and detachment that I value more than their being non-officials. It is with a view to give greater security to the interests of the masses that I plead for a greater representation of their own men than that of special interests. I do not cast any aspersion upon their motives or upon their conduct but I say that representatives of special interests will have special leanings in regard to certain questions as against the interest of the masses. Therefore my contention is that more constituencies should certainly be based on territorial principles.

Then with regard to Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's suggestion regarding the privilege of supplementary questions being asked by members other than those who put the question, I beg to say that it is a matter which is prevalent in all the other Legislative Councils established in British India and there can be no objection to the same being adopted here. We are really suffering for want of that provision here. If a member is unable to attend, the Council has no opportunity of getting the answer.

As it is, we are having only seven days for the discussion of the budget. Sir, it might have been within your experience that, during the last budget session, we were at the Medical Department when we dispersed. This year from what has been transpiring during the last three days, I hope it will not be so. Still I have my own apprehension that we may not progress further than the Medical Department. My submission is that nine days be allotted here also for the discussion of the budget as elsewhere. In Madras and other Provincial Legislative Councils, nine days are allotted for the discussion of the budget.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I know the number of members in the other Councils?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): It is more than 100—136 and so forth.

PRESIDENT: In Madras, it is 130, I believe.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): My point is this. We are nevertheless discussing the budget and going through the budget with as much attention and care as the members of other Legislative Councils. Probably, the strength of the Council has been the basis fixed by Mr. Subba Aiyar and others. I am also placing all these limitations for the consideration of Government.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May I know how far we went at the end of the first budget session?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): We hurried through the entire budget, I believe.

[President.]

These are my suggestions for the consideration of Government, which may be given effect to without alterations being made in our Legislative Council Regulation.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): In supporting what Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai said in moving this motion, I would like to offer a suggestion. In this Council there are seven nominated members. They are being considered neither as non-official members nor as official members.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): They are considered as non-official members.

PRESIDENT: I think they are exercising their non-official privileges to the full.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I know that. But, all the same, they do not come under the category of members who are returned from various electorates.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will my friend include Mr. Hoogewerf also in that category?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not like to answer my friend; but I like to go away from it rather than enter into it. The non-official members who are elected by the various constituencies would always say that they want to consider only the wishes of the elected representatives, so much so, that it happens that we are considered as Mr. Hoogewerf would say 'neither fish nor flesh nor good red herring.' In order to avoid this difficulty, I submit that there is no necessity for having 7 nominated members. Five of them might be asked to go away and 28 members might be returned from the general constituency. Thus the number of this undesirable lot (*laughter*) might be as much reduced as possible.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I quite agree with what Mr. Kumaran said—

PRESIDENT: He calls you an undesirable lot. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not quite agree with Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I did not speak a word about the nominated members or the principle of nomination.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): It is my suggestion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I would like to know what else he said, I did not quite hear.

PRESIDENT: He said that there should be a larger number of elected members, particularly those sent up by the territorial constituencies.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): As opposed to nomination?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): As opposed to special electorates as Jenmies, Planters, etc.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If he meant that, I do not want to make any criticism on that.

PRESIDENT: You do not agree with Mr. Kumaran. Do you?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I misunderstood Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. I did not know what Mr. Kumaran said. I did not hear.

PRESIDENT: He wanted the number of the nominated non-officials to be reduced, because they are neither fish nor flesh nor good red herring. He therefore wanted them to be reduced.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I disagree with him, not that I wish to be nominated again (*laughter*); but on principle. Mr. Kumaran would not have been here if there was no nomination.

PRESIDENT: He prefers to come through the open door of election.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): He may not succeed. There is only a single representative of the mighty Ezhava Community here.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvaran is another.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): May I know how the other communities such as the Tamilians will be represented here?

PRESIDENT: To whom are you putting the question?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It is not exactly nomination or election. Unless the member has a backbone, even though he is elected by the whole of Travancore, it is useless to come here and sit quiet or say *ditto* to Burke to everything that is said. [*Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai*: *Hear, hear.*] What is wanted is honesty of purpose and a desire to serve the country. Whether one is nominated or elected, it makes no difference whatever. The members should not have communal bias. Catholic members supporting Catholic officers, and Brahmin members supporting Brahmin officers, whether they are right or wrong, simply because they are Catholic or Brahmin—all that sort of thing should go. Members must come here to serve the public. So, whether he is a nominated or an elected member, it makes no difference whatever.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I have great pleasure in supporting the motion just now moved by my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai. The usefulness of the Council, I submit, may be enhanced without amending the Regulation itself. One of these matters has already been referred to, *i. e.*, asking of supplementary

questions by members other than those who have put the original question. Sitting here I have often felt the need for that power being vested in the members of this Council when supplementary questions are being put to official members in charge of the several subjects. There is absolutely no reason why other members too should not be allowed to ask supplementary questions. It is merely with a view to elicit information from official members who are in charge of the department.

Another direction in which, I think, the Council rules may be amended is in regard to the restrictions put upon interpellations and resolutions. In regard to the subject matter of these interpellations and resolutions, the rules are subject to Section 11 of the Legislative Council Regulation. It says:—

"It shall not be lawful for the Legislative Council to consider and enact any measure relating to or affecting—

....

(*k*) State Charities or

(*l*) Devaswoms belonging to or under the control of Our Government."

In regard to these matters, referring to Section 11 of the Regulation, it may not be quite advisable at the present stage to leave the power merely in the hands of this Council. I do not see, in regard to several of them, why the Council should not have the power to put interpellations and move resolutions. Take for example (*k*) and (*l*) of Section 11 of the Regulation. They are State Charities and Devaswoms on which nearly Rs. 20 lakhs are spent annually by the Travancore Government and they are administered by a separate department of the State. The administration of those departments, it cannot be denied, is of vital concern to the people.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai whether, if a resolution is passed to the effect that, instead of Rs. 20 lakhs, only Rs. 10 lakhs should be paid in respect of Devaswoms, the Government can accept it.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): There are ample reserve powers vested in the Government to avoid such contingencies.

PRESIDENT: He says that no such resolution could be discussed in the House.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Interpellations and resolutions also. I am speaking about the administration of the department and the money of the department is spent upon Devaswoms and charities. By a special Proclamation, a certain amount of money has been allotted to the administration of the department. I am speaking only with respect to the administration of these funds and not with respect to the allotment. I ask why we should not put interpellations and move resolutions in regard to the administration of these departments.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I have to ask another question. Suppose a resolution is passed to the effect that in the Hindu temples in Travancore there shall not be any വച്ചുനിവേദ്യം. Are the Government bound by it?

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Am I at liberty to put a question to Mr. Velu Pillai?

PRESIDENT: You cannot. The member who is putting a question is not in possession of the House. Will you please repeat your question, Mr. Velu Pillai?

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai says that, with regard to the administration of the Devaswom Department, this House should have the power to move resolutions and put interpellations in the Council. I would ask Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai whether, if a resolution is passed in the Council that hereafter there shall not be any വച്ചുനിവേദ്യം in the temples—

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): It will have the effect only of a recommendation upon the Government.

PRESIDENT: Yes; a recommendation. Are there not certain matters in regard to which you can interpellate, but you cannot move resolutions?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No, Sir.

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Another matter removed from the cognizance of the Council is Rule 7, which runs as follows:

"(1) No question shall be asked on any of the following subjects:—

(*a*) Any matter removed from the cognizance of the Council under Section 11 of Legislative Council Regulation."

PRESIDENT: It is the rule.

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Rule 34 lays down that no such discussion shall be permitted in regard to any of the following subjects:—

"(*a*) Any matter removed from the cognizance of the Council under Section 11 of the Legislative Council Regulation."

This, I submit, is a very vague term and ought to be better enumerated. There is a good deal of complaint with regard to the subject of railways. To effectively represent the complaints of the public in regard to this matter, the Council will have to move resolutions and put interpellations. But that is excluded from the cognizance of the Council because it comes under this particular clause.

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Railways are specifically referred to in another clause—Section 11 (*h*).

PRESIDENT: What he says is right. He says the Council cannot put questions on railways. He is stating what can be done and what cannot be done under the present rule.

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon].

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, you are aware that there are very many complaints about it. The business people know that it is very difficult to send goods from one place to another as rolling stock and trucks are insufficient to meet the demands. There is no reason why this Council should not have the power to deal with that matter. It appears to me that, by amending some of the rules, it may be possible to enlarge the powers of the Council in regard to the moving of resolutions and putting of interpellations. There are also other directions in which useful amendments to the rule may be made. These are some of the directions in which the rule may be amended so as to make the Council more useful. I have merely given some directions in which the usefulness of the discussion of the Council in regard to the several matters may be enlarged. With these words, I support the motion.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Sir, I would like to say a few words in support of this motion. I would like to bring to the notice of the Council one or two facts. One of them is that items which are votable under the Regulation are made non-votable. The Regulation itself says that "Our Government may appoint any member of the Council to be Deputy President." The honorarium to the Deputy President has all along been a votable item, and from this year it has been made a non-votable item.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): All along it has been a non-votable item.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I point out to Mr. Sankara Menon that this item was not included in the budget for the last two years?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): It only relates to the gratuities, salaries, etc., of officers. I do not know whether the Deputy President is an *officer* appointed by Government. Therefore it seems to me that to bring this as a non-votable item is certainly taking away the power of the Council.

Then with regard to the subjects that are prohibited under Section 11 of the Regulation, Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai has pointed out that the rules should be so modified as to bring the discussion of some of these subjects within the cognizance of this Council. A liberal interpretation of this Section would enable the Council to consider and offer suggestions on various other questions and also in the discussion of the various other subjects which this Council is competent to consider. These questions which are now prohibited under Section 11 may be relevant. For instance, I had sent up a resolution some time ago to take steps for developing the trade of the country. What I wanted was to consider how our trade has been affected by the increased freight levied by the railway.

PRESIDENT: You wanted an enquiry. Was that the wording of the resolution? You are referring to reasons. A resolution must be a recommendation to the Government to do something.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): It was only a resolution that has been submitted.

PRESIDENT: What was the resolution?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The resolution was with respect to the development of trade, by the reduction of the railway freight, etc.

PRESIDENT: That the railway freight be reduced?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I submit that, in considering that question the consideration of railway freight is relevant. We ought not to be prohibited from discussing these subjects. I submit that this subject might be permitted to be considered by the Council, so that the Council may know how we can develop our trade. Though the Council may not be competent to discuss the internal management of the railways; yet in considering other subjects, the question of the freight of the railway also becomes a relevant question. Those subjects cannot be prevented from being discussed in the Council. All that is necessary is a liberal interpretation of Section 11 of the Regulation to be put by the President. If that is done, it will be possible for the Council to discuss matters which are under the cognizance of the Council without even trenching—

PRESIDENT: What you want is alteration of the rules relating to interpellations.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Neither the rules nor the Regulation need be altered.

PRESIDENT: There is nothing preventing you from referring incidentally to such matters in your resolutions or interpellations.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Even with regard to interpretation of the rule.

PRESIDENT: It is rather hard to ask the President to interpret the rules in a way in which the rules will not bear interpretation.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I do not want that.

PRESIDENT: That is what you stated. You said that the President should interpret the rules more liberally.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*); I said that should be the main question. The rules should be so interpreted as to enable the Council to discuss all those subjects.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, I wish also to support the motion of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. In supporting it, I would like to make a few observations.

PRESIDENT: May I request you to speak a little louder? You cannot be heard at all.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): The rules could be interpreted without any prejudice whatever to the interests of Government. As one instance, I may point out Section 11 which reads as follows :—

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"It shall not be lawful for the Legislative Council to consider and enact any measure relating to or effecting the ruling family of Travancore."

Of course, certain interpellations have been disallowed for the reason that they affected the ruling family of Travancore.

PRESIDENT: May I point out to you that you cannot discuss a ruling of the President in regard to a particular interpellation you sent and which has been disallowed by the President. You cannot discuss that in the House.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I am only referring to an instance.

PRESIDENT: You cannot refer to any instance relating to a disallowance made by the President. You cannot refer to it in the House and criticise the President's ruling in regard to that.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): It is not for the purpose of criticising any ruling of the President that I am quoting an instance.

PRESIDENT: What else is it for? You say that such and such a disallowance was made and that for such and such a reason that disallowance should not have been made.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): In that case, what I should submit is that the laws and the rules should be according to the wishes of the people.

PRESIDENT: That is the presumption.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): If I am not given a chance to speak on it, I would only point out that rulings of that kind practically take away the privileges and rights conferred on us under the Regulation and the rules passed by His Highness the Maha Raja.

PRESIDENT: I am very sorry, but that is the rule. There are very many other places where you may discuss it, but you cannot discuss it in this House.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I would support the motion in so far as it says that the rules should be altered to enable the House to make interpellations on what I would term commercial matters. Members should be allowed to send in interpellations on such matters as the Cochin Harbour Scheme, the Interportal Convention and railways.

PRESIDENT: Are you referring to these specific matters or to the amendment of the rule itself?

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I am referring to these specific matters.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I should like to support the motion with respect to the question of Devaswoms. With respect to Devaswoms, the fear seems to be that, if one fine day

this House thinks of abolishing the Devaswoms, they would pass a resolution to that effect. That was the apprehension of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai. I would point out to him the other aspect, namely, that if the agencies entrusted with the performance of the *Vachunivedyams* commit default in their work, where is the possibility for this House to bring that to the notice of the Government? Let us have some limits within which the efficiency of Devaswom management may be considered. There is considerable difficulty as regards the House to bring forward the delinquency on the part of the officers of Devaswoms to the notice of Government. That is the reason why the Council should be allowed to interpellate and to send in resolutions as regards Devaswoms. May I also point out that the Devaswom Department was found by the Government to be a quagmire at one period of its history, so much so that the Government were forced to take strong measures to separate it from the Revenue Department. As was once pointed out by the esteemed Chief Secretary, it was in the interests of the Devaswoms that the Revenue-Devaswom separation was effected by the Government. After separating it from the Revenue Department, what the Government did was to put a ring-fence round the Devaswom Department to prevent other people from peeping in. It is essential that the Devaswom Department, if it is to function in the interests of the beneficiaries, should be under the gaze of the people, though the Government are not prepared to remove the safeguards which prevent the *raison d'être* of the Devaswoms being questioned. The Government are now jealous that nobody should step in and know how things are being done. That it was a Department in which incorrigible and chronic mismanagement had been rampant has been pointed out. Hence the necessity arose for the Government to separate it. After separation, what the Government did was never to open it to public light but treat it just like a *pardanashin* lady, never to be looked at. If that is the sort of thing the Government are going to do, I would submit that it it is extremely difficult for the people to make any representation and the voice of the people will be practically suppressed.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Is Mr. Narayana Pillai in favour of entrusting temples to local bodies constituted for the purpose?

PRESIDENT: It is being done, I think.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Shall I answer?

PRESIDENT: Yes, you may.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): With respect to that, I had myself to differ from the majority of a committee appointed for the purpose of Devaswom Separation. I put up my separate note and ultimately wound up by saying that, if, in the interests of the administration of the Devaswoms, since the existing arrangement was found unsatisfactory, they might be separated. If the official agency again proved unsatisfactory to manage the Devaswoms, then I would press for

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

the creation of a non-official agency for the management whereby the people should be called upon to manage the Devaswoms. We are therefore in an experimental stage—trying the experiment in the last stage to see whether the official agency will be able to do the administration satisfactorily. If they fail to do it satisfactorily, I would urge that these people should be asked to clear out and other people let in to do the work.

Then, with respect to the question of railways also, I really fail to see why the Government cannot allow us to talk about them. Of course, Mr. Krishna Pillai has referred in the morning to an agreement existing between the Railway Company and the Government. No doubt, there must be some sort of agreement. But, I do not think that it precludes the Government from interfering with the administration of the railways for the welfare of the passengers, etc. If it does prohibit the Government from a closer scrutiny of the railways in Travancore, I would certainly urge that the Government should move in the direction of amending the terms of the agreement. So far as the passengers are concerned, our fate has been a very unenviable one. Many of us, members of the Legislative Council, who occasionally assume some importance (*laughter*), find that, when we have to travel by the railway, not even a chair is available at some stations for the convenience of passengers. It would appear from certain statements made in the morning in reply to my interpellations that the railways have been receiving grants for furniture, etc., from the Government. The articles of furniture are generally absent and the chairs are broken and infested with a colony of bugs and other obnoxious vermin. (*Laughter.*) Of course the trade interests are greater interests. I would simply endorse all that has been given expression to in regard to that point by Mr. Mackie. I am myself not competent to speak on that. A wider and closer attention would be extremely desirable. In this light of the matter, I have very great pleasure in supporting Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion and urging upon the Government that the rules may be modified just to enable the House to consider these things.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have nothing further to say than that the suggestions made in the course of the debate on Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion will be carefully examined.

PRESIDENT: The time for the discussion of this Demand has expired. Do you withdraw your motion, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I would make a reply, and then withdraw. As regards the powers of the Council to discuss these matters at the budget time or to legislate upon these matters, move resolutions and put interpellations relating to them, there is a distinction which is mentioned in the Regulation itself. That is

to say, in regard to legislation, the rule says that, during the discussion of the budget, certain matters shall not be taken up for consideration, and again in regard to the asking of questions and moving of resolutions it is open to Government to relax the rigour of the Regulation.

PRESIDENT ; To which Section do you refer?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Section 17 of the Regulation. It says thus:—

"Subject to such restrictions and conditions as to subjects and other matters as may be imposed by our Government by rules under this Regulation, any member of Council may,—(1) ask questions and (2) move resolutions."

PRESIDENT: The rule has to be altered?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Yes. In regard to the alteration of the rules, if the Government are very particular that there should be some reserve power in their hands to disallow any legislation or discussion at budget time, it may be possible to have such a rule as in the case of the Government of India Act which also runs on the same lines. It says "except with the permission of the Governor-General in Council". So too we may have "Except with the permission of the Dewan, no matter shall be taken up for discussion." Our Regulation is significant for this omission. When the Government want to know the opinion of this Council, it might be possible under that Rule for the President of this Council as President to allow this discussion when he happens also to be the Dewan. There cannot be any fear that we may pass any resolution which may put the Government to difficulties in regard to the abolition of particular departments. About the sweet reasonableness and good sense of this Council high testimony has been obtained. So, I think we will not be unreasonable. I would therefore request that the rules be altered at least before the next Council comes up. I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for this Demand having expired, the remaining motions lapse.

Motions 143 to 151.

The following motions lapsed:

MR. N. KUMARAN:

143. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,100 for Legislative Council by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

144. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,100 for Legislative Council by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

145. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,037 for Director of Office Systems.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

146. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,037 for Director of Office Systems by Rs. 600.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

147. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,037 for Director of Office Systems by Rs. 100.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

148. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,037 for Director of Office Systems by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

149. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·92 lakhs under Demand VII by Rs. 100.

THE REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI:

150. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·92 lakhs under Demand VII by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

151. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·92 lakhs under Demand VII by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote of the House Demand VII —General Administration—Huzur Cutcherry etc.—for Rs. 1·92 lakhs. I take it that the House sanctions it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—ACCOUNT OFFICE.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·93 lakh under Demand VIII—Account Office.

Motion 152.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I beg to move the following motion:—

152. To reduce the allotment of Rs. ·93 lakh under Demand VIII by Rs. 100.

I have sent up this motion mainly with the object of discussing the question whether the Account Office and the Financial Section have to be separated. The work of the Financial Secretary and that of the Account Officer are essentially different. The duty of the Financial Secretary is to advise Government on matters of finance, to devise new sources of revenue, and to curtail expenditure. Mr. George, in whom is combined the duties of the Financial Secretary and the Account Officer, has complained that his work has been getting heavier every day. With the inauguration of the reformed Legislative Council, the formation of a separate Financial Section was found necessary. In the last budget discussion, Mr. George said that, "when important questions were to be dealt with and proper notes were to be written, he himself would have to attend to them, and that in very many cases the notes had to be dictated by him. He also remarked that the Council could very well understand what strain it will cause to the chief officer especially when the work of the Department is very heavy. The chief officer has also the duty of supervising the work of one hundred and odd clerks. His work has also increased by the issuing of the new Account Code." With regard to this point Mr. George himself has stated that "at present references from Government are not compulsory; but that in the new Account Code which is about to be issued, Government have laid down that certain questions should not be disposed of by the Administrative Secretariat without previous reference

to the Financial Department. For instance, all schemes submitted by heads of departments will have to be referred to the Financial Department which will have to deal with them from the financial standpoint. Recently, in connection with the budget, when the heavy budget work was in full swing, as many as 65 schemes came to the finance department for urgent handling during a period of about two weeks. Again, there is no arrangement in the Financial Section at present to deal with any general questions such as the revision of the travelling allowance rules, the question of economising expenditure on contingencies, etc."

We can fairly infer from these remarks of the Financial Secretary that he has not had sufficient time to be devoted to the consideration of financial questions and to the supervision of the Account Department. If the Finance and Account Departments are separated the Financial Secretary and the Account Officer will have both sufficient time to do their legitimate work. By the constitution of the reformed Legislative Council, the Account Officer has to act as the agent of the Legislative Council in seeing that grants are not diverted by Government for purposes not intended by the Council and that the expenditure under each grant is not exceeded. The Financial Secretary himself admits that this function is not satisfactorily discharged at present. It has been clearly established by the treasury defalcation at Quilon that the supervision of the Account Office is not efficient. Those who inspected the treasury were not able to detect the mistakes in the accounts. Even the Account Office was not able to find out the extent of defalcation without deputing a special officer to Quilon and spending an extra amount of public money. This fact shows that the Account Department will have to scrutinise more carefully the work of the subordinates and that a better arrangement has to be made in the Account Office. We do not know at present whether there is any defalcation in any other treasuries. In view of the defalcation at Quilon, the accounts of all the treasuries have to be specially audited and special rules have to be framed to prevent a repetition of the case at Quilon. For all these purposes, a re-organisation of the Account Office and the separation of the Finance and Account Departments is necessary. It is admitted by the Government that there is scope for retrenchment in some departments. The Financial Secretary should be entrusted with the work of investigating and reporting on the question of retrenchment. For these reasons, I think a separation is necessary.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, this question of the separation of the Accounts Department from the financial branch of it was discussed in a resolution which was moved in the House more than a year ago. At that time I pointed out to the House that, though the work was heavy, I was able to manage it. No doubt, what Mr. Madhava Variar says about the heavy work in the Account Office is correct. I do not also deny that there are very many advantages to be secured by having the Finance Department separate from the Account Office. As regards the duties of the Financial Department the new Account Code which has been already issued makes

[Mr. K. George.]

definite provision as to what these duties are. If those rules are adhered to, the work is bound to grow heavier. But we have not yet had experience of the result of the introduction of that Code. As I had already stated Government were generally referring, even before the issue of the Code, many of the matters now provided for in the Code. In spite of the fact that we have heavy work, we are somehow managing. I would ask the House whether it is advisable at present to consider this question of separation, when it would mean additional expenditure to Government. The House is aware that, owing mainly to the floods, our revenues this year may not be as satisfactory as we anticipated when we framed the budget. That being so, I daresay we would agree that this is not a favourable year to go in for additional expenditure when we can do without that. We may take up the question of separation when matters come to a stage when we cannot do otherwise than by separation.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know what the new items of expenditure will be in case a separation is effected?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There will be an Account Officer different from the Financial Secretary. He will have to be paid separately.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it only the pay of another officer that stands against the separation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There will be a separate staff also. All the work that is now done by the Account Office will still have to be done and a certain number of additional hands will have to be sanctioned separately for financial work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Am I to understand from this that the staff is being overworked?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): To my mind the staff is being heavily worked; I do not say overworked.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it a fact that, under the existing arrangement, any of the items of work relating to the Finance and the Accounts Department are being omitted?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Financial Department does its work mainly on references from Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): That is not my question. Because of the absence of the separation, does it happen that any of the items of work either in the Finance Department or in the Account Office are being omitted?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Certainly not.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will it not be enough then if some clerks are put under the Financial Secretary and others under the Account Officer from the existing staff?

PRESIDENT: You say that the work will be done better. Is that what you say, Mr. Velu Pillai?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Yes.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): When an officer is exclusively deputed for a particular work he will do it better.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambulapuzha*): May I know approximately what sum will be required for the purpose?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): About Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 12,000.

PRESIDENT: The Financial Secretary's salary itself will be Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000 in the least.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In that case, shall we not be able to do away with some of his Assistant Account Officers?

MR. K. GEORGE ((*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Assistant Account Officers do not now assist the Financial Secretary in the purely financial portion of his work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Shall I take it that the Financial Secretary's work is light and it is on that account that an assistant is not required?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial* (*Secretary to Government*): I wonder how he can draw that inference.

Mr. Madhava Variar referred to the treasury defalcation case at Quilon. He said that the Account Department was responsible for not detecting the defalcation. I think he made that remark because of the want of a proper understanding of the relative functions of the Account Department and the controlling officer.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the accounts in the Quilon Treasury were audited by the Account Office?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We audit only in the central office here.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether any mistake was found out?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Several mistakes were discovered in audit and they have been reported to the controlling officers but no defalcation was found out.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Then there is no use of auditing it here if no defalcation can be found out.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Defalcations cannot generally be found out by audit in a central office which is mainly confined to expenditure. As regards the receipts that are paid into a treasury, the system of accounting is this. Government revenue is paid into the Treasury. We get in the central office only a consolidated account from the treasury signed by the controlling officer. That is not subject to any check here; it cannot obviously be. At the close of the month, after the accounts are consolidated, extracts from the accounts are sent to the controlling officers who get from their subordinates corresponding returns of revenue realised and paid into the treasuries. The duty of detecting differences between the two is laid upon the controlling officers. So, any audit of receipts in the central office will be of no use for the purpose of detecting frauds.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Then what is the object of the financial abstract and the monthly returns submitted to the Account Department?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The central office has to prepare the financial abstracts for the whole State from these returns. So far as the receipts are concerned, the Audit Department does not have any special responsibility.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether Account Officers inspect these treasuries?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes; the inspection is done once a year. That is so far as the divisional treasuries are concerned. So far as the sub-treasuries are concerned, we inspect them only once in three years. The treasuries will have to be inspected very minutely and a detailed audit at the treasury will also have to be made if any defalcation is to be detected. Even then, fraud could be detected only if the returns received in the Account Office were taken to the treasury and checked there with the office copies.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the Account Officer exercises any supervision over the work of the controlling officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No. The Account Officer has no definite control over the Peishkar.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is the Peishkar expected to know the accounts?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes, he is expected to know the accounts and the duty of seeing that the treasury is efficiently working is laid on him by the Account Code.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The question is whether there is supervision by the Account Officer over the controlling officer sufficiently to know whether he is doing his work,

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In a way there is.

PRESIDENT: The question is whether he has got the power vested in him of supervising the work of the controlling officer.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is Mr. George aware that the Division Peishkars depute their subordinates, particularly the Division Assistants, to inspect the treasuries?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That is allowed by the rules.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Who inspects the treasuries more often? Is it the Division Peishkar or his Assistants?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There are two different kinds of inspection. There is an inspection which is done only half-yearly and there is the monthly verification of balance. Usually the inspection, so far as my memory goes, is done more by the Peishkars, although the Division Assistants also occasionally do it. But the monthly verification is, I believe, more often done by the Division Assistants than by the Peishkars. This verification relates to the checking of the cash balance and the signing of the cash account of receipts. This work is often delegated by Peishkars to the Division Assistants.

Mr. Madhava Variar asked whether the Peishkars are technically trained auditors. Technical training is not necessary for the detection of a fraud of the kind that took place in Quilon.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): What is the scale of pay of the Division Assistants?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There are two grades, one carrying Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 and the other carrying Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. The Treasury Officer, who has the executive charge, of a treasury, draws a pay of Rs. 200 to 250 so that the officer who inspects is higher than he. Without going into the details, I do not think it possible to decide the respective responsibility of the Peishkar and the Account Officer. The Quilon defalcation case, Sir, is now before a criminal court and I doubt if it will be proper to discuss it here now. I would, however, say that the audit officer is not responsible for the treasury defalcations or even for detecting them—unless accidentally, of course, by going to the treasury and by conducting a detailed checking there. But neither in British India nor here have we any rules laying down that the Account Officer should do that. In fact his inspection is not intended to take away the responsibility of the controlling officer. I may say that the defalcation in question was found out by the audit department.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether there is any special difficulty with regard to checking?

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): First of all, it did not strike us that we should conduct a detailed checking at the treasury. As I said, there is no such practice in British India. Secondly, the time allowed for inspection by the Account Officer is very limited. He is usually allowed only five days. If he has to make a thorough audit of the accounts at a treasury, it will take something like a month for one year's accounts to be audited with reference to the various subsidiary registers and other minor accounts. The Assistant Account Officer was deputed for the investigation of the frauds, and he took three months to find out all the items of defalcation. So it will be found that such a sort of detailed local inspection or rather local audit of treasury accounts is impracticable without at the same time sacrificing the inspection and audit of various other departmental accounts.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the accounts of the treasury were audited before the defalcation case at Quilon?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): When?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In 1098. In fact, every year we inspect all the Divisional treasuries once; and the sub-treasuries, as I said, are being inspected once in three years. All that I can say is that the Account Department, holding a central place, is doing as much as it can. As I said, this particular defalcation was itself found out by the vigilance of the Account Department.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know when the Quilon defalcation took place?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In 1098 and partly in 1099 also.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): When was it detected?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In 1099.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is there no difference between the inspection of treasuries by the Chief Account Officer and that by his Assistants?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Absolutely no difference. The Chief Account Officer does not go out often for treasury inspection.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In case the Chief Account Officer inspects and also his Assistants inspect—is there no difference?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Whether the Chief Account Officer or an Assistant Account Officer inspects, the inspection will mean the same.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Is it the inspection by the Account Officer or by his Assistant—which will count more with the subordinates?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No doubt, if a higher officer goes, there may be greater regard for that person. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): If the functions are separated, would it not be possible for the Account Officer to pay more frequent visits to the treasuries?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the rules themselves require any modification to make defalcation impossible?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No amount of rules could make defalcation impossible. (*Laughter.*)

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Is it not possible for the Government to appoint an auditor to inspect the accounts locally and keep up a continual audit?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): A central audit is now done here.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I mean a continual audit. A man who is qualified should be appointed and he should visit the different treasuries regularly.

PRESIDENT: Is such continual audit done elsewhere? You will then need a man appointed at each place.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is no guarantee that that particular man will not also be involved in defalcations.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Government have to trust some one.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Treasury Officer is a man of status.

PRESIDENT: It will depend upon the standing of the man. But, Mr. Mackie, it would involve great expenditure to appoint a qualified auditor in each place.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That may itself not stop any defalcation either. (*Laughter.*)

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanantitta*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

Motion 153.

The following motion was not moved since the member was absent at the time:—

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

153. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. ·93 lakh under Demand VIII by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: Now I put this demand to the vote of the House, Demand VIII, General Administration—Account Office—for Rs. ·93 lakh. I take it that the House sanctions the Demand.

The grant was made.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-8 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-9 P. M.

NEW MEMBER.

The following new member was sworn in amidst cheers:—

Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose B. A., M. B., B. S. (Lond.) L. M. (Rotunda) (*Surgeon in Charge of the Darbar Physician's duties*).

DEMAND FOR GRANTS—(CONTD.)

DEMAND IX—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6·8 lakhs under Demand IX—Administration of Justice.

Motion 154.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move:—

154. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,215 for clerical establishment by Rs. 1,200.

I find from the budget that provision is made for an Indexer and Law Reporter on Rs. 100—125. My motion relates to the officer provided with a pay of Rs. 100--125. In the ministerial establishment of the High Court, there are the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar, the Manager, and the Indexer and Law Reporter in the senior grades. The Registrar and the Deputy Registrar have sufficient work in the High Court. But the fact that the Manager has very little work to attend to has been brought to the attention of the Government, I believe, during prior occasions. The Law Reporter and Indexer too has got sufficient work to attend to. The officer who has very little work to do is really the Manager. He gets a pay of Rs. 125---150.

My proposal is that the place of the Indexer and Law Reporter may be done away with and the Manager may be asked to look after the work of indexing and law reporting. In that case, the Manager will have sufficient work and one place on Rs. 100 -- 125 may be dispensed with. No doubt the Indexer and Law Reporter should be a person conversant with the law. Necessarily he must be a graduate

in law. From the departmental rules, I understand that the Registrar and the Deputy Registrar should both of them be graduates in law. The Manager need not necessarily be a graduate. But if it is found difficult to entrust the work of indexing and law reporting to the present Manager, I would suggest that another place be provided for him and a Manager who is a graduate in law may be entrusted with the work of indexing and law reporting as well. On this account I propose a reduction of Rs. 1,200, that is, by reducing a pay equivalent to that of the indexer, *viz.*, Rs. 100 a month, and the consequent abolition of a place carrying Rs. 100. With these words, I move the reduction.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I did not know from the nature of the motion proposed that it was intended to attack the necessity for the Indexer's post in the High Court. As far as I know, the Registrar has control over the whole Department, the Deputy Registrar is in charge of the work of boarding and the Manager is in charge of the vernacular department and preparation of copies, issue of processes and other things.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai says that the Manager has not got sufficient work.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): With respect to that I can only say that, even after the Salaries Committee's recommendation the High Court as a body did take the whole matter into consideration and were satisfied with the necessity for it and wanted it. So it has been sanctioned. What exactly is the amount of work turned out by the Manager has not been brought before the House, and the necessity for the Indexer was not questioned till now. I may say, so far as the present Manager is concerned, he is not a graduate in law. It is absolutely necessary for an Indexer and Law Reporter to be a graduate in law. I can only say at present that the suggestions of Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai will be placed before the High Court for their views and the necessary action will then be taken.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): What is the work that the Manager is attending to in the High Court?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): He is attending to the admission of appeals, the issue of processes, and the issue of copies, and he attends also generally to the vernacular portion of the work.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know what the head clerk is doing?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As soon as he receives the plaint, he sees whether it is properly valued and then sends it to the Manager, I believe.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know why Mr. Velu Pillai, Deputy Registrar, was transferred from the High Court?

PRESIDENT: It is not at all relevant.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Inasmuch as this motion was a surprise, I can only say that the suggestions

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

of the member will be placed before the High Court for their opinions and the necessary action will afterwards be taken.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Who is attending to the boarding work?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Deputy Registrar.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Who was doing it before?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Deputy Registrar.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I support the motion of Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai simply because of the unjust action of the Chief Justice in appointing —

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I rise to a point of order whether it has got anything to do with the motion in hand.

PRESIDENT: Let him finish his sentence.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I have brought to the notice of the House that the appointments made by the Chief Justice during the re-organisation and for the past few years have been on a communal basis and no non-Brahmin had the opportunity to serve in the ministerial staff.

PRESIDENT: That statement is absolutely irrelevant to the point at issue.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I support the motion, because Mr. Appatturai Aiyar is not a graduate in law.

PRESIDENT: Who is Mr. Appatturai Aiyar? (*Laughter.*)

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I mean the Manager.

PRESIDENT: The question does not relate to the Manager, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai does not want the Manager's place to be abolished.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): His suggestion is to appoint a graduate in law. That is quite reasonable and so I support the motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, Mr. Subba Aiyar was not in a position to say whether the Manager has sufficient work in the High Court or not. But we know as a matter of fact that he has very little work to attend to except signing copies of summons, etc. The work of receiving appeals and other papers is attended to by the Head Clerk and he alone is responsible for checking the valuation, etc. The Manager has absolutely no duty to attend to any of this work and practically his work is very unimportant. My suggestion was that one place be abolished, a place carrying Rs. 100,

and the Manager might be given the work of indexing and law reporting. If the present incumbent is competent to attend to that work, there is absolutely no necessity for appointing him to any other work. I have nothing to do with personalities or communities and I was simply stating a fact. I believe that this matter has been repeatedly brought to the attention of Government even before. The Manager's place, I believe, was created only some time ago and I am sure the High Court will agree with the Council in thinking that it is unnecessary.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As for my friend's observation that the Manager's place was not in existence some years back, I believe, the Manager has been in existence for ever so many years as long as I could know it. So also, the place of the Deputy Registrar is not new at all. The Manager has, in addition to his office work, to issue copies and do ever so many other things. As I have already stated, the object of the mover is quite new to me. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai had not suggested in his motion what he intended to speak upon. It was only stated that he wanted a reduction of Rs. 1,200. I thought he wanted the reduction of a few lower clerks. Therefore I submit I have not had due notice of his intention. If due notice had been given, I would have been in a position to say in detail what exactly is the necessity for the place of a Manager for the High Court. As I have already given the assurance that the matter will be placed before the High Court, I think Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai would be satisfied.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether the Manager and the Deputy Registrar existed at the same time in the High Court before the re-organisation?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, for a long time. Mr. Thandu Aiyar was there; Mr. Velu Pillai also was there.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion to a division, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 155.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion—

155. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,236 for temporary clerks.

These temporary clerks are intended for the continuance of the Third Bench of the High Court to the end of 1100. The Third-Bench, which was instituted in 1092, is continued every year temporarily. The Third Bench was constituted for the sole purpose of clearing arrears. Mr. Subba Aiyar assured us, in the last budget session, that the moment it was found unnecessary and undesirable to have it, that moment it would be

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

stopped. We do not know when the moment will arrive for the Government to decide that the Third Bench is unnecessary. Soon after the constitution of the Third Bench, the arrears were partly cleared. The number of first and second appeals pending at the time of creation of the Third Bench was 1,317. In 1093 and 1094, the number went down. There was no justification to continue the Third Bench thereafter. After that there is a fluctuation in the number of cases disposed of. In Travancore there is a tendency for all temporary establishments to become permanent. If the Third Bench had been clearly told that arrears should be cleared within a specified time and that it would otherwise be discontinued, better work wolud have been done.

Mr. V. Subba Aiyar advanced certain arguments for the retention of the Third Bench. His first argument was that, as the decision of the High Court was final, the Judges had to hear cases patiently and give final decisions. The old judgments of the High Court are considered to be more weighty and reasonable. If Mr. Subba Aiyar's argument that, because vakils have begun to argue for a long time, the retention of the Third Bench is necessary is to be accepted, the Third Bench will have to become permanent and it will be very easy for the vakils to create a Fourth and a Fifth Bench very soon. It is true that High Court judges work from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. If six Judges cannot turn out better work than what four Judges used to do, it is time to consider whether better men should not be appointed to the High Court. The High Court does not feel the necessity of clearing the arrears. The Law Member is asking us to pay for the negligence or carelessness of the High Court Judges. In the last budget session, Mr. Subba Aiyar's final argument for the retention of the Third Bench was that one Bench was fully engaged in a big case for about four months and so the judges were not able to clear the arrears. It is stated in the Administration Report of 1098 that during that year the High Court was short of its full strength when Messrs. T. Palpu Pillai and P. Raman Tampi, Puisne Judges, were absent on leave and when Mr. Justice Chatfield was on special duty in connection with the trial of election dispute cases. I do not know whether Mr. Subba Aiyar has to mention any special circumstances which necessitate the retention of the Third Bench for this year. The Government will have to definitely assure us that, when the work of the High Court becomes current, the Third Bench will be immediately abolished and they will have to depute a special Bench to dispose of old cases alone. I hope Mr. Subba Aiyar will enlighten the House whether the present circumstances necessitate the retention of the Third Bench and whether the Government could, by any arrangement, facilitate the clearing of arrears within a definite period.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. I will try to place some figures before the House. I believe the House will be thoroughly satisfied as to the necessity for the retention of the Third Bench and I believe even Mr. Madhava Variar will be equally convinced.

I will give the figures from 1069 up to 1099 to show how the work of the High Court has increased and how it is necessary to continue the Third Bench for such time as will be necessary to dispose of old cases, in other words, until the work becomes current.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know when the work will become current?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I will come to that.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Let us have an idea of the meaning of the phrase 'work becoming current'.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not a prophet and I am not prepared to say when exactly the work will become current. It depends on various considerations. It depends upon the nature of the cases, upon the propensity of the litigants and upon ever so many other considerations. In 1098 the number of suits instituted was much higher than in the previous year and it was much higher still in 1099. Until it comes down and becomes normal, it is not possible to abolish the Third Bench.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether, if old cases are disposed of, the work will become current?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe so.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): No, Sir, I do not think so.

PRESIDENT: If it is not a matter of opinion, it is self-evident. If old cases are disposed of, the work is said to become current. You want Government to give an assurance as to when the work will become current. That is impossible.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I will try to satisfy the House as to whether these Judges of the High Court are doing their level best to turn out as much work as is expected of them. It is not possible for me to prophesy or predict when the work will become current. I can only place before the House the figures showing the work that has been turned out by the Judges of the High Court and I think that would satisfy the members.

In the first decade, the files ranged from 610 to 865, in the second, from 701 to 1,126, and in the third, from 927 to 1,102. With reference to review applications, it has risen from 39 to 52. Miscellaneous appeals have risen up from 40 to 144. Civil revision petitions and miscellaneous petitions have risen up from 710 to 1,866.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

If you come to criminal work, in the first decade it ranges from 48 to 42, in the second decade, from 70 to 192, and in the third, from 116 to 210.

So also, as regards the average annual file, we find thus:—

	Regular appeals.	*Second appeals.*
First decade	390	414
Second decade	424	398
Third decade	486	605

In other words, the work, from the first to the third decade, has risen by over 50 per cent. and the number of Judges has been increased only by 50 per cent. That is so far as appeals are concerned.

Coming to miscellaneous work, we find that in the first decade we had only 503 cases which rose up to 730 in the second decade and eventually to 1,514 in the third. In other words, it has increased by more than 100 per cent. Then again, if we come to the disposal of cases—

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know what exactly was the reason for this extraordinary increase in the number of miscellaneous cases?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In the first place—I believe that must be the reason—there were then only 24 courts, whereas now there are as many as 42 courts; formerly all the suits which were the subject of appeal originally came only from 24 courts. Now there are 42 courts. In proportion to the rate of increase in the number of courts, which is more than 50 per cent., there is also an increase in the number of appeals.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it not due to the deterioration in the quality of the work of the lower courts?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No; I do not think the work of the lower courts has deteriorated.

As regards first appeals disposed of, we find that, in respect of civil work, the disposals were as below:—

First decade	317
Second decade	395
Third decade	453

In other words, there is an increase of about 50 per cent. in the disposals also.

Then again, in the disposal of second appeals, we find the figures as below:—

First decade	414
Second decade	372
Third decade	540

In other words, the total number of cases disposed of in the third decade come to about 1,000, in the second decade about 760 and in the first about 730.

As regards the disposals in 1099, we have the following figures:—

First appeals	647
Second appeals	614
Total	1,261

Therefore, so far as the High Court is concerned, it will be seen that the Judges are doing their very best in the matter of disposal of cases. I know, as a matter of fact, and it also gives room for much complaint, that the Judges sit from 11 A. M. to 4-30 P. M. with an interval of barely half an hour for lunch. (*Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai*: *Hear, hear.*) I do not know whether any human being could be expected to work more than the present High Court Judges. I do not think it would be advisable on our part to put any restriction on the work of the High Court Judges, such as that a particular Bench must look only to the disposal of old cases within a definite period. I, as a practitioner, cannot advise such a step. It will be ruinous to litigants and certainly prejudicial to lawyers. If we impose such a restriction on the High Court, certainly the High Court can succeed in disposing of a larger number of cases in a short time. For instance, if a vakil is late, the Judge may dismiss the appeal and say that he disposed of the case. Certainly that is not the sort of disposal that we want. As it is, the disposal of cases by the High Court is very satisfactory. That being the case, how can we complain that the High Court is not having enough work?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): How many cases of the year 1097 are still on the file of the High Court?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think there are many pending appeals of 1097.

		A. S.	S. A.
Appeals pending for less than a year		439	499
Do	more than a year	171	102
Do.	more than two years	37	13

Formerly, there were appeals pending for more than five years. Now I do not think there are many appeals even of 1097.

Therefore, it is clear that the Judges are trying to dispose of cases as quickly as possible. Because a particular Judge is only a temporary Judge, I do not think we are justified in concluding that he would try, by slow disposal, to increase the arrears in order to continue his temporary appointment.

Then again, after the passing of the High Court Regulation, one of the High Court Judges may go and inspect the subordinate courts when the latter is in full working order. Naturally that will entail additional work. The High Court is trying to see that the lower court is inspected when it is working, because it has been found that the inspection at the time of court recess is not quite satisfactory. The High Court have, therefore, to utilise their little leisure for such necessary inspection work. Under such circumstances, I think it will not be proper for the House to impose any restriction or condition upon the

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

discretion vested in the High Court. Therefore, I think, their recommendation for the continuance of the Third Bench is entitled to very great respect at our hands, especially seeing that the work that they turn out is very satisfactory.

In these circumstances, I think Mr. Madhava Variar will be satisfied by the figures that I have quoted to show that the High Court were not shirking their work and that the work has really increased considerably. As such, necessarily, the number of Benches also has to be increased.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there are any arrears and when the work can be termed current?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, I have given you the figures. The total number of cases pending is only about 1,200—647 regular appeals and 614 second appeals. If there is no appeal more than one year old, probably the Temporary Bench will be abolished. We do not know the nature of the appeals pending and therefore we are not in a position to say exactly when the work will become current. Last year, fortunately, there was no peculiar circumstance or contingency which increased the file of appeals or detained any particular Judge or Judges of the High Court for a long time. Anyway, it is not possible for us to predict when exactly the work will become current.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is not the work current even now?

MR. V. SUBBIA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, there are appeals pending for more than two years.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know the number of cases pending when the Bench was created?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It was about 900 and odd when the Third Bench was created. Now we have over 1,200. As such, I think we must accept the recommendations of the High Court for the continuance of the Third Bench and not propose the reduction of the temporary establishment. I hope the above facts would satisfy Mr. Madhava Variar.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar.

In opposing Mr. Madhava Variar, Mr. Subba Aiyar told us that he is not a prophet. We may assure Mr. Subba Aiyar that, even if he is one, this side of the House is not prepared to rely upon his prophecies. We have to go by the figures supplied and the nature of the work turned out by the High Court, considering at the same time the principle underlying the appointment of additional Judges. In the first place, I have very strong objection to appointing any judicial officer as a temporary officer. It gives room to an undercurrent of suspicion tending to

discount the face value of his work, especially when the temporary Judge happens to be a weak-minded man. As a general matter of policy, it is objectionable.

Secondly, my friend quoted a number of figures and reviewed the work turned out by the High Court during the last three decades. Ultimately,he also pointed out that the Judges were turning out much work; in fact, he said that they were turning out more work than their predecessors in the High Court. Evidently he omitted to take into account the facilities afforded to the present High Court Judges in the matter of hearing appeals. Firstly, the pleadings are all printed. In all Full Bench cases, all the important papers are printed. All additional documents sought to be introduced are printed. These are facilities which the present Judges have and for all these the litigant public are indirectly taxed. That is one aspect of the question which my learned friend Mr. Subba Aiyar evidently omitted to consider.

Then with respect to the work that the Additional Judges have to turn out, my friend says that, as soon as the work becomes current,the temporay Third Bench will be abolished. At the time when the High Court Regulation was introduced, when it was pointed out that there was provision only for not less than four Judges in the High Court, Mr. Subba Aiyar promised that four Judges would be enough for the High Court and that the Third Bench was only temporary and would be abolished as soon as the work became current. It was suggested to him then that, if the temporary Bench was likely to become a permanent factor, provision might be made for six permanent Judges in the High Court. But Mr. Subba Aiyar said then that it was not necessary, since the arrears would be cleared soon. That prophecy of Mr. Subba Aiyar now remains unfulfilled.

With respect to the existing amount of work, my friend Mr. Subba Aiyar himself quoted figures to show that there were only about 13 special appeals more than two years old. I suppose the figures supplied to him relate to the close of the last year, *i. e.*, the close of Karkatakam or even a few days before.

Then my friend said that they have got no large amount of any arrear work; so much so that the necessity for the Third Bench has now practically disappeared. With respect to special appeals more than two years old, my friend said that there were only 13 and only about 37 or so of appeals more than two years old.

Thus, practically there is no necessity for the Third Bench. If it is not a pure prophecy, which my friend Mr. Subba Aiyar abhors, that induces my friend to say that there would be the necessity to continue the Third Bench for a number of years. It is upon pure prophecy and not upon figures, which, as he himself has said he would not indulge in, that he takes his stand.

PRESIDENT: Well, we have to prophesy, at least for a year, for the purpose of the budget.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): My friend would not prophesy, as he says. It is, of course, a matter of inference

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

that must be warranted by figures; but the figures do not warrant any such thing. Well, he was pointing out a number of things regarding civil miscellaneous petitions, revision petitions, etc. How many of them are dismissed without hearing the opposite side, is a matter which is only too well known to the litigants and their legal advisors. In many cases, notices are not generally issued before these petitions are dismissed. For stastical purposes, all these are taken as petitions disposed of. The Judge sits, first to hear the petition, and, only if there is necessity, will he even issue notice to the opposite side. Otherwise the petition will be summarily dismissed. If, therefore, relying upon the figures which Mr. Subba Aiyar has been good enough to place before the House, we are invited to vote, it will not be safe. If the figures were examined closely, they would not lend any support to the continuance of the Third Bench. Therefore, I am sorry, I have to support Mr. Madhava Variar and oppose Mr. Subba Aiyar.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I also support Mr. Madhava Variar. I do not suggest that our High Court Judges are lazy, nor do I question their sense of justice. We cannot but recognise the fact that they are perhaps the hardest-worked officers of the Judicial Department, especially because they have to sit by twos and threes. Every one of them has to attend the court precisely at 11 A. M. I think the highest judicial tribunal is the only place where the work starts exactly at 11 o' clock. Most of the Judges are courteous, and polite, and some of them have also a sense of humour. There are those who are adepts in throttling lawyers, there are ways of asking vakils to sit down although they are polite. My friend Mr. Subba Aiyar who himself has had the luxury of being so asked will not question my statement.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it because they make long speeches?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Long speeches in the Council and in the courts are different things. In the court they have to be cut short. The judges have got power. There is what is called relevancy. There are various Regulations which have to be looked into. In the courts, the rules relating to relevancy are more strict.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is the sense of relevancy absent in the Council?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I never said that. On the other hand, there are various things which strike me here as irrelevant. There is relevancy in the Council proceedings, and there is also relevancy in courts of law, the only distinction being that standing here and talking as members of the Council is different in genus from standing in the court and arguing cases. There, one feels one's humility more than in the Council. Here, we come in our

own right as elected representatives of the people. There, we appear for clients. (*Laughter.*) The first thing to do there is to win our case. We do not go there to lecture on policy.

PRESIDENT: All that is not relevant here, Mr. Velu Pillai. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am sorry I am obliged to stray away from the subject under discussion. But when a responsible member puts a question how can I decline to answer?

One point that I wish to press upon the attention of the Government is with regard to the appointment of Judges. Now, a Munsiff who works as a Munsiff for several years, to whom the High Court Bench is something high up in the clouds,—when by shifts and turns he comes to the High Court one or two years before retirement,—takes time to acclimatise himself. He looks at the tapestry and things of that kind. (*Laughter.*) And he also tries to learn the ways of the other Judges and the ways of vakils in addition to learning law, because the officers of the Judicial Department who are long in service sometimes forget the new developments in law. In effect, a Judge who is promoted on account of seniority enters the High Court by one door, remains for a short term of years and goes through the other door, the result being that the public do not get the advantage of having experienced Judges. I do not want to deny promotion to judicial officers but the policy of appointing people who have got plenty of life, energy, optimum, breadth of outlook and practical experience—the necessity of appointing such men is imperative, because, rather than the question of giving promotion, it is the interests of the country that have to be considered. Therefore, in selecting men to fill the place of Judges in the High Court, Government have to see that efficiency and ability are more honored than seniority. If that is done, I daresay that there will be more disposal. The disposal is slack not because the Judges are not doing what they can, but because gentlemen with greater capacity are not appointed. At the fag end of one's service it will be too much for any man to acclimatise himself to new surroundings, and even the methods of argument are different in the District Courts and the High Court. That is one reason which prevents Judges from doing the maximum work that is expected of them.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): From Mr. Subba Aiyar's arguments it was clear that there were not heavy arrears in the High Court when the Third Bench was constituted. It was constituted simply for the purpose of clearing old cases. Just two years after the constitution of the Third Bench, very many old cases were disposed of. But, even then, the Third Bench was continued and that is the position even now. There are not very many cases which are more than one year old, and these cases cannot constitute heavy arrears, at least in my opinion. So, I do not think that Mr. Subba Aiyar has convinced the House as to the necessity of retaining the Third Bench.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I thought I made the point very clear, but Mr. Madhava Variar does not seem to be convinced. What I was concerned with was as to whether the High Court Judges are doing their best; and it will be seen from the figures I have quoted that a reasonable number of cases is being disposed of by them. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai said that the method of recruitment is not satisfactory, and he began to question the competency of the Judges to dispose of cases. The point that we are at is about the number of the High Court Judges. We should take things as they are at present. There are six Judges now. Human nature being what it is, whatever be the method of recruitment we adopt, whether it is from the bar or the subordinate judiciary, I believe, we shall find the same capacity and the same character in the Judges as we do find now. There may be intelligent lawyers and there may be also lawyers who are not intelligent; there may be judges who are prepared to throttle vakils or who will patiently hear the vakils. So also, in the case of Munsiffs and those who are promoted from the lower ranks of the services; so that it may not be possible to say all at once that there will be any difference between Judges who are recruited from the bar and those who are promoted from among the Munsiffs. The tendency will be the same. We are concerned only as to whether they are turning out the requisite quantity of work; and I believe, I have placed before the House the number of cases disposed of and I hope that it must satisfy the House. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai said that the arrears are not heavy. Are we to wait for two years or until the moment when the arrears will again accumulate, when there will be appeals pending for more than five or six years? What I suggest is that we should wait for one or two years and see whether the number goes further down, seeing that they are trying to work as much as possible. If after one or two years we are satisfied that there is not enough work for the three Benches, then, by all means recommend that the Third Bench should be abolished. As it is, it is too early to suggest the abolition. The High Court Regulation was passed very recently. We do not know what amount of inspection work will be necessary and what will be the nature of the work at the end of the year. Let us first give them time to consider, say a year or two; then it will be time enough to consider whether the further continuance of the Third Bench is necessary or not; instead of that, if you drop this all at once, I say it will be suicidal. Until we are quite sure that the file has become normal and the disposal is also normal, I believe we shall not be justified in discontinuing the third bench.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Madhava Variar, do you press the motion to a division?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 16 voting *for* and 19 *against*.

Motion 156.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

156. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 51,622 for High Court by Rs. 100.*

I beg to submit that, several months ago, this House passed a resolution recommending the suspension of the *Civil Courts' Guide*. Since then, in the Popular Assembly, several representations have been made on the same subject. But we have not been able to find any attempt made by the High Court to remove the grievance caused by the *Civil Courts' Guide*. It is a matter of surprise as to why the High Court should have refused to listen to the representations of the people. I therefore propose a reduction of Rs. 100 from the allotment.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The grievance that was brought forward by some of the members on a previous occasion was that, in the absence of a Malayalam translation, it was found very difficult to follow the *Civil Courts' Guide*, and the High Court were written to. It is now understood that a translation has been printed and is ready for publication.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has it been published?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe it is ready for publication.

PRESIDENT: I may tell the Council that some 1,400 printed copies of the translation have been just received, and they are going to be circulated as a supplement to the *Gazette*.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): So that, the real objection has been removed; and with reference to some of the details, some representations were made at the last session of the Assembly to the effect that certain provisions in the *Guide* were working real hardship upon the litigant public and that they ought to be removed. The High Court have been addressed in the matter and they are seriously considering the propriety or otherwise of modifying such of them as really work hardship.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know why the operation of the *Civil Courts' Guide* was not suspended pending the issue of the translation?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The whole thing will in effect be repealed if the operation is suspended. There must be something to guide the procedure in the courts in the meantime, if you suspend the provisions. Further, most of them were really old rules. They are not revived if the new rules are suspended. New forms were introduced and new registers opened. The courts and the lawyers and the litigant public had begun to understand the *Guide*. It would, therefore, have been creating confusion to suspend the operation of the new *Guide*. If there are individual rules

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

working hardship, they will be scrutinised by the High Court and modified where necessary.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether any steps have been taken by the High Court to modify or alter the *Civil Courts' Guide*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, they are considering.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Has anything been done to his knowledge?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know whether anything has been done. They said that everything would be done.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I am in favour of the motion. Mr. Subba Aiyar said that the High Court is considering the resolution with a view to modify the *Civil Courts' Guide* in one part of the speech and in another he said that they have translated the same. The translation was evidently not made before the resolution was passed. Now, after the resolution is passed, elaborate arrangements were made for printing the translation. Therefore, ten to one the chances are that in the light of the fact that considerable money has been spent, the modifications will not be made, for then the printed books will be useless.

PRESIDENT: The modifications will be only of a certain number of rules.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What I understood from Mr. Subba Aiyar was that the *Civil Courts' Guide* in its present form without any modification or alteration has been translated and printed. If that is so, I think my argument gets stronger, because, if the High Court thought that the modifications were few, they had with them enough power to suspend the proposal regarding the translation.

PRESIDENT: Would not that be a greater hardship?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): There is choice between the evils.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am only expressing my opinion.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Is it possible for the Government to suspend the operation of the *Civil Courts' Guide* until all the members of the Council and the Popular Assembly could exhaust their ability to suggest amendments?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My friend knows that there is no finality in legislation and there is no finality in passing rules. I am viewing the question from another

standpoint. We respect the High Court. But the High Court in return has to respect the resolution passed, by the Council. Now, Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that, even if the High Court pronounces a person to be guilty, the Executive Government has got the power to pardon the offender in certain cases. And if the Executive Government is given that power, how much more the prestige and power—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know whether the Executive Government or the Sovereign possesses the power to pardon?

MR T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I must say, Sir, that you cannot put the Sovereign and the Executive Government in two water-tight compartments. The Governor of Fort St. George in Council, who is not a Sovereign, exercises that power as the executive head. It is the Executive Government. I do not want to say anything more upon that.

Now I take the view that, when the Legislative Council passes the resolution by a very large majority, is it not the duty of the High Court, for whose maintenance we have to vote money year after year—is it not their duty, to show some consideration towards us? The *Civil Courts' Guide* could have been suspended by one notification and the old rules revised. I stated during the budget debate of 1099 that two judges were told off to draw up a *Civil Courts' Guide* and that it was an expenditure of money that could not be justified and other members also took that view. But our voice was only a cry in the wilderness. The work went on, the book was published. After it was published there was a commotion, I would even call it a consternation among the litigant public and the lawyers, and it was therefore that we, the representatives of the people seated in this House, voted deliberately that the Guide should be suspended. So that it is a question of prestige and I am very jealous of the powers of this House. The High Court should have showed us greater consideration. So I support the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I have great pleasure in supporting Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's motion. The resolution of this House which was carried by a very clear majority was a recommendation to Government that the *Civil Courts' Guide* should be suspended. We did not press for the absolute abrogation of that publication but only contended that it should be suspended before certain further things were done in connexion with that. The question was asked by my friend Mr. Subba Aiyar whether the High Court could suspend it. I am surprised my friend raised that question, seeing that the High Court could enact it and could cancel it. So certainly they could suspend it, and they could revise the previous procedure of the High Court and the subordinate Courts. Certain rules were found unworkable and difficult to be complied with and led to considerable difficulty, especially since the guide not accompanied by the necessary vernacular translations. These are the points that were raised, so much so that, rightly or wrongly, this House came to the conclusion that this Guide should be suspended. That was a

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

mild suggestion; but in view of the dignity of the High Court it could not be suspended. We do not know whether it was owing to the stubbornness on the part of the Government or the High Court that no effect was given to it. The question is, as Mr. Velu Pillai put it, whether we do not feel insulted by the absence of any action in response to the resolution passed by this House.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): May I know whether this Council cannot repeal the provisions of the *Civil Courts' Guide* when the Civil Procedure Code is taken up?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No. We cannot do it. We can only discuss the Civil Procedure Code then. Unless another measure is brought forward, we cannot do it. And that would be an extreme measure. Of course such an extreme measure will have to be resorted to if a case arises like that. Our quarrel is that the Government have not taken the necessary steps to give effect to the resolution in regard to the *Civil Courts' Guide*. Therefore I am clearly of opinion that it is a piece of small insult offered to the House. Such being the case, at the very inception of this House during the first three years of its existence, when an insult is offered,—kindly pardon us, Sir,—we are obliged resort to reprisals. As a mark of disapproval of the action of Government on this resolution, we are obliged to make this cut upon the allotment. With respect to the *Civil Courts' Guide* resolution, I am speaking subject to correction, I understand that the Legal Officers of Government advised Government to suspend the operation of the *Civil Courts' Guide* as it was not published with the translation. I am speaking subject to correction. The correspondence is hermitically sealed. Somehow or other the resolution of the House stands slighted. That is the cause of this motion. And I have to point out that, so far as the Government are concerned, Mr. Subba Aiyar said that the Civil Courts' Guide was all right. At any rate, so far as this side of the House is concerned, it has become imperatively necessary that we must mark our disapproval of the action of the High Court or of any other agency in the matter of not suspending the *Civil Courts' Guide*. So I warmly support this motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, so long as the resolution remains unaccepted by the High Court, I think it is our duty to protest against the scant courtesy shown to the recommendation made by this House. Mr. Subba Aiyar was not able to point out whether the High Court was justified in not suspending the *Civil Courts' Guide* as recommended by this House. He said that the translation was almost ready and that it would be published as soon as possible. Of course, the omission to publish a translation was only one of the reasons alleged during the course of the discussion on the resolution. I submit that, so long as the resolution is not given effect to, our grievance will remain unredressed. So long

as the recommendation is not acted upon by the High Court, I think there is a legitimate grievance for this House. The resolution was passed by a large majority of this House and it had also the support of the Popular Assembly which held its sittings after the resolution was passed. The resolution was passed by the representatives of the people and it was therefore the duty of the High Court to give effect to it. It is nearly eight months since the resolution was passed; and during all this time the translation was not published. The High Court could very well have published a notification suspending the operation of the *Civil Courts' Guide* at least till the translation was published. That too has not been done. Then, again, Mr. Subba Aiyar said that it was not possible for the High Court to suspend the *Civil Courts' Guide* because the old rules could not be brought into force. It is not so. If that had been done, the procedure in the courts could have been regulated according to the old circulars. Under these circumstances, I do not see that there is any justification for not giving effect to the resolution. Hence I press this motion to a division.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am really sorry that, in spite of the speeches made by my friends on the other side of the House, I cannot agree with them. In the first place, the resolutions passed by this House are only recommendations, though of course every respect should be paid to such recommendations. As far as possible, effect should be given to them. What is it that the High Court did? As soon as the resolution relating to the *Civil Courts' Guide* was communicated to the High Court, they thought that the translation asked for was absolutely necessary and therefore they made proper arrangements for a translation. We know, as a matter of fact, that the *Civil Courts' Guide* is a bulky volume and the translation of such a voluminous matter means some time. Then the translation has to be printed. We have now done all these and have printed 1,400 copies which are ready for publication. That being the case, I ask the House to say whether the High Court did not pay regard to the wishes of the House by making expeditious arrangement for the translation and publication of the *Civil Courts' Guide*.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Were the High Court not bound to do the same even if there was no resolution?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The translation might have been published along with the original. But it was not published; and when it was pointed out that there was a grievance for want of the translation, the mistake was immediately rectified.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): What is the language of the courts in Travancore?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The plaints have to be written in Malayalam.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): What is the language of the courts? What does the Civil Procedure Code say?

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Civil Procedure Code says that the plaint shall be written in Malayalam. I do not know whether anything else is said anywhere else.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether it is not illegal if it is not in Malayalam?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think it is illegal. Whenever a thing is published, the Civil Procedure Code does not say that it should be in Malayalam. That is not a reason, because certain other things are published in Malayalam.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Supposing it was published in the Chinese language or in Persian, would it be legal?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think such a hypothetical contingency arises here. Judgments are usually written in English, allegations and issues are written in English, arguments are in English and everything is done in English except in the matter of plaints.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the *Civil Courts' Guide* was ever published in the *Gazette*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe it was. So far as we are concerned, the published volume was sent along with the *Gazette*.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Was it a part of the *Gazette*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know it exactly. I am not able to give an answer at present.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Was it sent to all subscribers of the *Gazette*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The supplements to the *Gazette* do not necessarily form a portion of the *Gazette*. The supplements are specially charged for.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Even before it was published in the *Gazette* is it not necessary to make the rules public?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Publication does not mean supplying the copies to subscribers.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether Mr. Subba Aiyar has any knowledge of the *Civil Courts' Guide* being published in the *Gazette*, as part of the *Gazette*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes. It was published with the *Gazette* as a book. It was issued as a separate volume. If my friends are so serious about it, the best way in which they could have effectively tested its validity was to argue in the High Court that the *Guide* was *ultra vires*.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I ask Mr. Subba Aiyar whether a Division Bench of the High Court has held that some of the rules in the *Civil Courts' Guide* are *ultra vires*.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The best thing would have been for some lawyers to submit for a ruling of a Full Bench that it was an illegal publication and that it was not binding upon the public. I think an effective motion could have been made instead of trying to get a legal opinion from me which is absolutely ineffective and which will not bind the High Court.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask him whether the prime duty of the vakil is not to win his case and whether it is to try to submit a question of law.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If the decision in a case is not favourable to one party, then there will be the other party to whom the decision may be favourable. It will be for the party for whom the decision was unfavourable to submit a question of law and say that the *Civil Courts' Guide* is *ultra vires*.

I do not think any opportunity has been availed of to get a declaration from the High Court. I think that was the point which Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai wanted to press forward.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Were not all the arguments for the suspension of the *Civil Courts' Guide* discussed at the time when the resolution came up?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am coming to that. The point pressed was the absence of a translation. The High Court have shown all respect to the resolution. Instead of saying that the High Court have disregarded and insulted the wishes of the House, the members should have known that the High Court have speedily published the translation.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will Mr. Subba Aiyar place on the table—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I ask whether the temporary suspension of the *Guide* would have seriously handicapped their work?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am coming to that.

PRESIDENT: What is it that you wanted to ask, Mr. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will Mr. Subba Aiyar place on the table all the correspondence in regard to this matter that passed between the High Court and the Government?

PRESIDENT: I do not think that arises here. You will have to take him on trust in regard to what he says. You may by means of an interpellation ask the Government to place all the correspondence on the table.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether the publication in Malayalam of the *Civil Courts' Guide* was in the usual course as other publications? Do not the Regulations require it to be published in Malayalam?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Then, could it not be published without a requisition?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, I do not think all the translations are published.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether the resolution was not to suspend the *Guide* and whether the question of non-publication of the translation was only one of the points incidentally raised?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The resolution was to suspend the *Guide*. The argument was that there were certain rules which worked hardship. I am first dealing with the arguments that were placed in the House about the necessity for suspension, namely, first, the necessity for a translation, and, then, the necessity for amending some of the rules which worked hardship. The translation was published and I stated there were some defects which were pointed out by Judges and Munsiffs and were rectified. All the suggestions made by the House were placed before the High Court and they have taken action upon them; and as for publishing it before the rectification was made, I think, correction slips may be very easily inserted. There is no difficulty about that. By suspending it, you cannot revive the old rules. The High Court have got the power to pass certain rules and they have passed them with the sanction of Government. Section 14 of the General Clauses Regulation says thus:

"Where a Regulation confers a power to make any rules or bye-laws or to issue orders, the power shall be construed as including a power exercisable in the like manner and subject to the like consent and conditions, if any, to rescind, revoke, amend or vary the rules, bye-laws or orders."

Whether the word "suspend" will also be included in the power vested under Section 14 of the General Clauses Regulation, is a matter for serious consideration, and the High Court shall be taking a responsibility which they are not authorised under the Regulations. I stated that the *Civil Courts' Guide* was itself in force for four months. New registers have been opened, new forms have been used. Until the translation is ready, to suspend the whole thing without reviving the old during the period of suspension is, I think, not desirable and the legal consequences are very serious. Therefore, it was not contemplated by the High Court. I believe, instead of blaming the High Court, the House should consider the fact that the High Court have shown all expedition and every respect and regard in giving effect to the resolution so promptly and to the extent to which it was necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : May I know why the Government did not give an account of what they did in pursuance of the resolution ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Evidently it was thought better to do it after the translation is published. Probably that was the intention.

PRESIDENT: What is the occasion ?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): A statement by the President as to what effect had been given to such and such a resolution passed by the Council on such and such a day could have been made.

PRESIDENT: That is a novel thing.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I submit that statements of that kind have been made in this Council itself.

PRESIDENT: As answers to interpellations ?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : No; in other cases also, for example, the announcement of the results of an election to a Committee.

PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any analogy between the two.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) Then, I do not say anything.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*) : I press the motion to a division.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 22 voting *for* and 19 *against*.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:

AYES—22.

1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.	12. Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.
2. ,, Paul V. Daniel.	13. ,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.
3. ,, A. Govinda Menon.	14. ,, M. N. Pillai.
4. ,, A. Hoogewerf.	15. ,, N. Padmanabha Pillai.
5. ,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.	16. ,, Joseph Panjikaran.
6. ,, S. Krishna Aiyar.	17. ,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Tiruvalla.*)
7. ,, N. Kumaran.	18. ,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
8. ,, T. Kumara Pillai.	19. ,, N Ramakrishna Pillai.
9. ,, Tariatu Kunjikomman.	20 ,, C. Sankara Menon.
10. ,, V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.	21. ,, P. T. Thomas.
11. The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.	22. ,, T. K. Velu Pillai.

[Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai]

NOES—19.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
3. „ K. George.
4. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.
5. „ R. Krishna Pillai.
6. „ R. K. Krishna Pillai.
7. „ T. Lakshmana Pillai.
8. Mrs. Mary Poonen Lukose.
9. Mr. John Mackie.
10. „ K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
11. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
12. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai, *Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries.*
13. „ P. Paramesvaran.
14. „ M. Raja Raja Varma.
15. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
16. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
17. „ J. Stephenson.
18. „ V. Subba Aiyar.
19. „ A. J. Van Ross.

The motion was declared carried.

Motions 157 to 159.

The following motions were not moved.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI.

157. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 51,622 for High Court by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI.

158. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 51,622 for High Court by Rs. 100.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI.

159 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,82,028 for *Amins*, process peons and copyists by Rs. 5,000.

Motion 160.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I move the following motion :—

160. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,82,028 for amins, process peons and copyists by Rs. 2,000.

There are too many copyists in the Judicial Department. In the Attingal Principal Munsiff's Court, there are 9 copyists, and in the Additional Munsiff's Court there are 9 copyists. At least two copyists each in the two courts can be done away with. They are simply idling away their time without getting sufficient work. Their minimum work is to copy 12 pages a day. They do not even copy 5 pages daily. I have heard copyists complaining that they do not get any bonus which they would get only if they wrote more than 12 pages, because the staff is so overcrowded. If two copyists are reduced from each court at this rate, from 32 Munsiffs' courts we can send away 64 copyists. They are unnecessarily appointed simply to provide jobs for some men. Hence I would press for the cut.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Though the motion is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,82,028 for *amins* process peons and copyists by Rs. 2,000, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's speech referred however only to copyists. His complaint was that in the Attingal Munsiff's Court there was not work enough for all the copyists and no copyist got bonus. I do not know whether from that a general inference can be made that all the copyists throughout the State in all the various courts have not got enough work. I do not think it right to make that inference in such a manner.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether any bonus was given last year?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Some money was spent in that direction.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the member be pleased to say how much money was spent in the shape of bonus?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): How many Courts gave bonus? In how many Courts was bonus paid to copyists last year?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have not got the necessary information on that point.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I believe no bonus was paid in any of the Courts.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think so.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the member in charge could give the name of any single Court?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know the amount exactly. I know that some bonus was paid. If the motion had been to reduce the copyists, because they have no work, then we could have known under what head the attack would come. Since there was no indication to that effect, I have not got the necessary information.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My motion, Sir, is with regard to process peons also.

PRESIDENT: You did not specify the item of reduction. If you had stated that, Mr. Subba Aiyar could have come better prepared.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): For the information of my friend I may add as a sort of personal explanation that in the accounts for 1098 the amount of bonus was Rs. 2,163. From the particular instance of Attingal, no inference can be made; and as for Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's suggestion about the copyists in Attingal

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

the matter will be duly communicated to the High Court to see whether a reduction in the copyist staff could be made if they have no work.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 161.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I beg to make the following motion:

161. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,900 for bonus to copyists by Rs. 1,000.

Sir, this sum is intended for distributing the money to copyists who write more pages than the minimum of 12 pages. I do not know whether many of them received this bonus. I think the member in charge of this Demand will explain what is the amount that lapsed last year under this item. I think the major portion of this item will lapse. There is no need for this allotment and so it can be reduced.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In 1098, the amount spent was Rs. 2,163. For 1099 the accounts are not yet ready and therefore I cannot state exactly what the estimate could be.

PRESIDENT: From the actual expenditure in 1098, what could be the estimate?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The revised estimate for 1100 gives no details.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was the amount given to copyists or was it spent for any other purpose?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If the amount was spent for a different purpose, it will be shown against that particular item. I may point out that the actual expenditure was Rs. 2,000 and odd in 1099. When the revised estimate was prepared, a small decrease was expected and so Rs. 1,900 alone was provided in the original estimate.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): It is not in the revised estimate.

PRESIDENT: The details are not given in the revised estimate.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My idea is that bonus was not given to any of the copyists.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar says that the actual expenditure was Rs. 2,400 and odd.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): According to the account rules, if the bonus is transferred for any other purpose, it will be shown for what item the money has been spent.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Then, I withdraw.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 162.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I rise to move:—

162. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,73,975 for Civil and Sessions Courts by Rs. 100.

My object is to draw the pointed attention of the Government to the necessity of establishing a Munsiff's court in Nedumangad. The people of Nedumangad have been asking for a long time and the members of this House and the President have sufficient experience of the insistent demand being made by the representatives of Nedumangad taluk for a number of years. I asked a question about the subject some time ago, and the Government were good enough to give some figures with regard to the number of cases. The High Court, Sir, somehow, seems to be against the proposal of having a Munsiff's Court in Nedumangad. We have heard yesterday in this House the kind advocacy of the claims of *kanikars* and others who are fleeced and oppressed by subordinates of the Forest Department. Nedumangad is a place where there is a large number of *kanikars* and the ordinary people of the hills are not very different from *kanikars* and they are also fleeced by various officers. In the taluk headquarters, a small place which I would certainly call a town, there are the Magistrate, Police Inspector, Sub-Registrar, Medical Officer—all these people. Now, if litigants, instead of going to Attingal and Trivandrum and to Neyyattinkara, are made to go to the taluk headquarters, in the first place they will become more civilised than they are now. In the second place, they will not have to travel long distances. It is cruel to make a man from Ponmudi pass through Nedumangad, come to Trivandrum and from here go to Neyyattinkara. There are 17 *pakuthies* in Nedumangad; and you find, Sir, that out of these 17 *pakuthies*, 7 *pakuthies* go to the Neyyattinkara court, 4 to Trivandrum and 5 to Attingal. Why should the *pakuthies* of Nedumangad be dismembered in this unkind fashion? I do not make any proposal which will entail greater expenditure. I shall certainly not ask for more courts. There are three Munsiffs' courts in Trivandrum, 2 in Attingal and 2 in Neyyattinkara. Rather than cut us piecemeal, sending some of us to Neyyattinkara, others to Trivandrum and others to Attingal, why not, Sir, give us a chance of litigating upon our rights in a court which is established at the taluk headquarters? I do not want to say more about this question as it is only a very reasonable request; the people demand it with one voice, and the barest consideration of justice is enough to enlist proper support. I trust my friends on this side and on the other side of the House will see their way to support the motion. After all, let me remind the House once again, I do not ask for any additional expenditure. I trust that the proposal will be considered with deserving sympathy.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I believe this question has been agitated upon for a long time and it is only from a general knowledge that I am in a position to answer that question, because I could not know from the motion that it related to a Munsiff's Court in Nedumangad. Because the motion was only stated to be to reduce the allotment by so much in the case of Civil and Sessions Courts, I had not been able to anticipate the intentions of the member. But, unfortunately for the member, I believe, the matter was more than once brought to the notice of Government and the matter was referred to the High Court and the High Court were not satisfied with the necessity therefor. What I may assure Mr. Velu Pillai is that the matter will again be brought to the notice of the High Court to ascertain whether it is possible for them to reconsider their decision.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Repeated attempts were made by the Government to move the High Court in this matter and nothing has been done at all till now.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In a matter of this kind where the entire judiciary is under the control of the High Court, a body of six Judges, and when they do not see any necessity for a special court, I do not think it will be desirable to interfere with their power. Strictly speaking, the recommendation has to come from the High Court; and to show the intensity of feeling and the extent of demand for the purpose, I said, Mr. Velu Pillai's suggestions would again be brought to the notice of the High Court, to see whether they would not find their way to change, if possible, their view in the matter.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): While expressing sympathy with the motion of Mr. Velu Pillai, I should make one observation, and that is that, in case a Munsiff's court is established at Nedumangad,—and I have absolutely no objection to a Munsiff's court being established at Nedumangad—there should not be any dismemberment of the *pakuthies* of Neyyattinkara (*Laughter*) and the Neyyattinkara clients should not be forced to go so far as Nedumangad for cases.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Having had the luxury for some years of the clients enjoying Munsiff's courts in Neyyattinkara at the expense of the Nedumangad clients, would Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai object to send them to Nedumangad, if necessary?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I would strongly object to that. (*Laughter.*) I think it my duty to press upon the attention of Government this aspect of the case as well. I have no objection to one of the Trivandrum courts being sent over to Nedumangad. Perhaps, Trivandrum and Nedumangad may adjust between themselves. But so far as the Neyyattinkara Munsiffs' courts are concerned, there should be no inconvenience by way of dismemberment caused to them, because there are only two courts in Neyyattinkara.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to support the motion of Mr. Velu Pillai. A Munsiff's Court at Nedumangad is absolutely necessary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I also support the motion brought forward by Mr. Velu Pillai. Mr. Velu Pillai does not want any new expenditure to be incurred. He wants only one of the courts here to be transferred to Nedumangad, and I think that it is a very reasonable request.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I also support the motion of Mr. Velu Pillai. It is really a hard case that people from Ponmudi should be obliged to go over to Trivandrum to conduct cases and I am sorry to state that my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai safeguards the interests of his constituency at the expense of Nedumangad. Let us not deprive the people of Nedumangad from having a Munsiff's Court there. I think, if it is convenient to transfer those *pakuthies* from Neyyattinkara to Nedumangad, it should be done for the sake of Nedumangad people.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, when I raised the question of communications in North Travancore, Mr. Velu Pillai said that there should not be any distinction between North Travancore and South Travancore.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, when I said that—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I am only supporting Mr. Velu Pillai. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: This is intertaluk rivalry!

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Nevertheless, I am going to support him. I am glad that my friend has changed his views.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): No, Sir; I have not changed my views, but I cling to those views because they are right.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I think he has changed his views and so I am glad to support his motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In the light of the assurance given by Mr. Subba Aiyar, I am prepared to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 163 and 164.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

163. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,73,975 for Civil and Sessions Courts by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

164. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for bonus to copyists.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Motion 165.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I beg to move—

165. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,553 for establishment under Law College by Rs. 100.

Let me state the purpose for which I have made the motion. Sir, my main object in making this motion is to draw the attention of Government to the fact that a re-organisation of the Law College staff is required. As it is, the Professors in the Law College are not full-time officers. They are known as Professors; they used to be known as Elective Lecturers. The permanent Professors are only few in number. Others, formerly known as Elective Lecturers, and now as Junior Professors, are not permanent. Instead of such Professors, let us have full-time Professors permanently employed as Professors just as in other Colleges. It has now become necessary from last year, as a temporary measure, that the pleadership classes should be given separate treatment. They are not willing to take up the work of tuition in respect of those classes separately. They used to teach only the B. L. and F. L. class students. I say that they cannot possibly attend to the pleadership classes so well for the reason that they are busy lawyers having very much of professional work to do outside the College. But in case full-time Professors are put in,—I mean, duly qualified persons who have high degrees in law—there are many junior men in the profession who may do very well as Law Professors or Law Lecturers, who may also find ample time to not only teach the F. L. and B. L. classes but also to attend to pleadership classes separately in case separate tuition is desirable.

PRESIDENT: Is it your idea that the College should be made a day College?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes. Necessarily the time will have to be changed. The hours of tuition may have to be changed. Even if the time is not changed, I should consider that—

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the advantage in changing the time—is it for the sake of the Professors or for the sake of the students?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Mainly for the sake of the Professors.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I point out to the member that this will affect the students who are mostly employed in the offices?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): It is therefore, I said, that the time *may be* changed. It is not my idea that the time of teaching should be changed. As a matter of fact, my own personal opinion is that the time need not be changed and that the existing periods are so well suited to students who have other occupations

as well. To Government employees undergoing training in law, the morning and evening hours are quite suitable indeed. These Professors are lawyers. The senior men having extensive practice in courts find it extremely difficult to engage the classes two or three periods in the morning. They cannot afford to teach for more than one period a day. In case junior men are taken with sufficient qualification for tuition, they may find it possible to attend two hours daily. Even the morning hours will suit them very well. They may not have much to do in the courts and they may very well like this work even. I should also think that, in the interests of the law students themselves, it is desirable that such men who may be expected to devote greater attention to teaching work than to their professional work, should be appointed. I should consider that eight Professors—that is what the budget says—is certainly too heavy a staff for the Law College. The Pleadership classes were having combined classes with F. L. and B. L. students until very recently and we do not know what reasons induced the Government to separate the Pleadership classes. If it is a case of inability on the part of the pleadership students to understand the lectures, unless they are given separate tuition, it may be desirable to adopt either of two ways. Either the standard may be raised to the Intermediate stage or Professors may be appointed who find it possible to devote one hour for F. L. and B. L. and also one hour for Pleadership classes separately. In such cases, there will be much economy and efficiency on account of this re-organisation being effected in the Law College. It is with that object that I have tabled this motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*); I beg to support Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. I had sent similar motions last year which somehow or other did not come up. At the time of the new appointments I was very much opposed to them. The pleaders have become as plentiful as blackberries and there are more pleaders now than clients, I was told. To increase their number is not at all safe. Now to send these pleaders who have not sufficient knowledge of law to the Districts is to let them loose, more or less, on society as it were, and that is not very safe to the litigant public and also to courts of law. It is increasing litigation. It is in the lower courts that cases ought to be properly argued. If the foundation is properly laid in the lower courts, it will avoid future trouble. It is because there is a lot of bungling by these pleaders with insufficient knowledge of the law, that the trouble increases as we go on from court to court. This is a very important matter in the consideration of the Pleadership class. As rightly observed by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, if the lectures given by the Professors are above the heads of the School Final men who attend the Pleadership classes, the entrance examination should be made higher—they should be either intermediate students or graduates—as is the case in the Madras College, so that they may be able to understand the lectures. We should not cut off our legs to suit our trousers (*laughter*). I feel it rather delicate to speak on the subject because one of our own members is a Lecturer in the Law College. But, all the same, I consider it my duty to bring

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

this matter to the consideration of Government. While we are preaching retrenchment on the one side, we are increasing the number of appointments on the other side. This is a bad policy. So I strongly support the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): A consent decree is sometimes better than an *ex parte* decree. I did not propose to speak on this question because I am personally concerned in the Law College. Mr. A. Hoogewerf has been generous enough not to advocate this question because one of the members of this House is a Professor in the Law College. The capacity of a member of this House is different from the capacity of a Law College Professor. There will be no time for collision, and if the rules are changed forbidding a Law College Professor from being a member of this House, I shall certainly not be sorry. But what I want to impress on my friend Mr. Hoogewerf and gentlemen of his way of thinking is that the Law College is not a useless institution. No doubt there is a large number of lawyers, a large number of doctors, a large number of engineers. That does not mean that instruction in law and in the other subjects should not be imparted; and my friend Mr. Hoogewerf also will remember that every citizen ought to know the law. So even those people who do not intend to practice as lawyers may go to the Law College, particulary because, on account of the generous reform of the Legislative Council, citizens will have to come to this Council, and when law is being discussed they will be able to take a very lively and a more useful interest. I need not mention names. I may say, Sir, there are gentlemen who have passed the second grade Pleadership examination and who are members of this House who have built up an excellent reputation and who are doing excellent work in this House, comparing favourably with that of any double-barrelled graduate.

Now as regards the separation of the Pleadership classes. You cannot teach Shakespeare to the B. A. class and to the Fifth Form together. For the matter of that, you cannot teach Shakespeare to the B. A. and F. A. classes together. This is not therefore peculiar to law. If, in the Trivandrum Law College, there were combined classes some time ago, there is no reason why there should be combined classes now. Students are able to get better tuition now. I do not join issue with Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai when he said that people who cared to be in the Law College might do more work. If the number of students is to be reduced, it may be reduced. All that I can say is that the Government will not be justified in putting people of different calibre into the same classes and I must also say that the object of the Government should not be to make the Law College a source of profit to themselves. It is not a commercial institution. Already the Government is getting a large income from Law College fees. I would say, spend that money for the good of the subjects, spend more money on books, have more Professors and if the existing number of

Professors is too great, you may dispense with some of them. This is the kind of reform that I should advocate. I thought, Sir, as I have personal experience of the Law College, I must say these few words, and I trust Mr. Hoogewerf also will appreciate the real state of the case about the Pleadership classes and about the Law College generally.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirar Vakil*): Sir, no doubt the Pleadership classes and the F. L. and B. L. classes were formerly combined classes, and a single Professor was lecturing to both the classes together. But it was represented that, as the standard of education in the two classes was quite different, while in the case of B. L. and F. L. classes it was lowered, in the case of the Pleadership classes it was higher.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I ask, when the combined classes were going on, what was the percentage of success in the Pleadership examination?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Of course, some were able to pass.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Was there a larger number of students successful in the Pleadership examination *after* the separation?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As regards the B. L. and F. L. classes, the complaint was that the standard was being lowered while in the other case it was high. Therefore, the High Court, at the instance of the Law College Principal, thought either the qualification for admission in the case of Pleadership classes should be raised or the classes should be separated. Now if the qualification for instruction was raised, *i. e.*, restricted to students who have passed the Intermediate examination, in that case it may be that the combined classes could be held. But on examination it was found that no person passing the Intermediate or the B. A. examination ever got himself admitted into the Pleadership classes and therefore, virtually, raising the qualification would mean closing the Pleadership classes. A resolution was once tabled to abolish the Pleadership classes for about ten years or so. But that resolution was not discussed, and it was, I believe, withdrawn.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether the Intermediate examination is not the qualifying test in the Madras Presidency?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think that the Pleadership classes are held there. The only course left was to separate Pleadership classes as I said or to increase the qualification. Increasing the qualification meant closing the Pleadership class.

We have next to take into consideration the fact that, while there are very many Munsiffs' Courts, there are only a few graduates in law practising in these Munsiffs' Courts. Although Mr. Hoogewerf will say that the lawyers are as many as blackberries, I do not believe there are very many graduates in law practising before the Munsiffs' Courts,

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it the case with those who go to the Law College?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, they would rather think it derogatory to go and settle themselves before the Munsiffs' Courts. But they do not object to go to the local Munisiff's Court occasionally. Therefore there are not enough of lawyers.

Again there is the complaint of unemployment. To prevent these from getting the necessary legal qualification and enable them to try their chance as lawyers—that would be rather a hardship.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I point out that there are unemployed men even among the vakils also?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That may be. If you take the number, there are very many among the Pleadership men who do succeed so that if you abolish the Pleadership classes altogether you have to throw out all these men and there will not be duly qualified lawyers in the Munsiffs' Courts. That being the case, the idea had to be given up. Raising the qualification was not feasible and the only method left was to separate the two classes. It meant additional lecturers. As for the students, I doubt whether it will be better to have full-time Professors. As Mr. M. N. Pillai said, it may work hardship on some of the Government servants who choose to attend the Law College. That is a matter which has to be very closely examined. I am not quite sure that the reduction in the number of Professors and making them work a little more would be easy. They will insist upon being paid a little higher. At any rate the suggestion of Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai is one which has to be very carefully examined and the views of the High Court taken in the matter. And I have not the slightest doubt that the Government will take the necessary action in the matter to see whether it is feasible. If it is feasible, the economic point of view and all other points will be considered and necessary action taken.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Why are most of these Professors called elective Professors?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is to say, the Government may elect to continue them or disband them. It is not in the sense that they are elected by any constituency. (*Laughter.*)

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I did not suggest that the Pleadership classes should be abolished. That was not my suggestion. I was pointing out that the staff might be reduced considerably by asking the Professors to work one or two hours more daily, which might not after all be considerable work, as regards full-time Professors. If the senior lawyers do not find it possible, competent men should be appointed, who are readily available. As for the higher pay that

they may demand, seeing that there are persons who possess the M. L. degree willing to accept the place of a Munsiff beginning with Rs. 150, I do not think it impossible for the Government to get properly equipped Professors on moderate pay to attend to this business

Hoping that this will meet with the consideration of Government, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The election of three non-official members to the Finance Committee will take place on Friday evening, after the business for the day is over, under the presidency of the Deputy President.

The Council adjourned at 5-20 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M the next day.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 24th September, 1924.

SECOND SESSION, 1099.

(Adjourned Meeting.)

(Official Report.)

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee town Hall at Eleven Thirty-six of the Clock on Wednesday, the 9th Kanni 1100/24th September, 1924, the President presiding.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12—*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary questions Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Expenditure on the P. W. Southern Division and the Kodayar Project Division.

75. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : Will the Government be pleased to state what sums of money were spent on the P. W. Southern Division and the Kodayar Project Division separately during the ten years immediately preceding their amalgamation ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The statement showing the expenditure incurred on works and tools and plant in the two divisions for the ten years immediately preceding their amalgamation is given below.

Year.	Kodayar Irrigation Project Division. Rs.	Southern Division. Rs.	Remarks.
1088	6,26,202	3,76,400	The figures do not include the charges on establishment.
1089	4,59,536	3,97,180	
1090	2,50,558	3,91,171	
1091	1,92,839	2,87,158	
1092	2,25,096	3,00,075	
1093	1,94,994	2,97,880	
1094	2,16,767	3,00,035	
1095	2,49,370	3,28,386	
1096	2,53,341	4,22,858	
1097	2,18,407	4,13,999	

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

Expenditure on the Main Southern Road.

76. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) What sum of money was being spent annually on repairs to the Main Southern Road prior to the introduction of the present toll system and the bus traffic?

(*b*) How much money is being spent annually subsequently?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The member does not specify the period prior to 1087 for which he wants figures in regard to the annual expenditure. An approximate expenditure of Rs. 38,250 was being incurred annually prior to the introduction of the toll system and the bus traffic.

(*b*) The annual expenditure for 1087 to 1098 is shown below:—

Year.	*Rs.*	*Year.*	*Rs.*
1087	39,368	1093	49,762
1088	41,996	1094	48,037
1089	43,907	1095	60,248
1090	43,369	1096	65,619
1091	45,247	1097	63,424
1092	48,154	1098	58,136

Amount of Toll levied at Aramboly and Kuzhittura in 1099.

77. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): What sums of money have been realised during 1099 from the toll-gates on the Main Southern Road at Kuzhittura and Aramboly respectively?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The two toll-gates at Kuzhittura and Aramboly were bid for Rs. 29,450 and Rs. 17,650 respectively, for 1099.

Mr. P. N. Sitarama Aiyar, Registrar, High Court.

78. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Registrar of the High Court, Mr. P. N. Sitarama Aiyar, is junior to most of the Temporary Second Judges; and

(*b*) whether his earlier confirmation on Rs. 400 will give him seniority over those Temporary Second Judges?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) As Temporary Second Judge, Mr. Sitarama Aiyar is junior to five Temporary Second Judges.

(*b*) The High Court has stated that his earlier confirmation on Rs. 400 will not confer on him seniority over the five Temporary Second Judges referred to above.

Mr. P. N. Sitarama Aiyar, Registrar, High Court.

79. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Registrar of the High Court, Mr. P. N. Sitarama Aiyar, is junior to most of the Temporary Second Judges; and

(*b*) whether his earlier confirmation on Rs. 400 will give him seniority over those Temporary Second Judges?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 78.

Transfer of Secretariat Officers to Executive Offices and vice versa.

80. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of graduate clerks drawing Rs. 50 and above and the number of Superintendents who have been sent out of the General and Revenue Secretariat to the Magisterial, Excise, Police and other Departments during 1097, 1098 and up to the end of Dhanu, 1099; and

(*b*) the number of hands taken into the Secretariat from the several departments?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) Three men were sent out to the Revenue Department, three were sent out as Magistrates and four to the Devaswom Department.

(2) Eight men were taken from the Revenue Department; one from the Account Office; one from the Palace Office; and one from the Royal Stables Office.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to give their kind consideration to the application of one of the Superintendents, Mr. M. Govinda Pillai, for a place in the Excise Department as Assistant Excise Commissioner?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise here, Mr. Hoogewerf.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have not Government stated that it is their policy to send out to the executive line from time to time, clerks, superintendents and others from the Secretariat?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they keeping to that promise?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; as far as possible.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does the statement show that they are doing it in a generous way?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of inference and opinion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to give greater effect to their declared policy in this matter?

PRESIDENT: There is nothing to show that they are not giving effect to it.

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Very few are sent out, Sir.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion, Mr. Hoogewerf. Question time is not the time for expressing it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that a large number of clerks are vegetating in the Huzur Secretariat? (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND IX—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—(*contd.*)

Motion 166.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I beg to make the following motion:—

166. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,300 for Law College Hostel by Rs. 100.

Sir, during the budget debate in 1097, I raised the question of admitting all classes of students into this hostel, and the undesirability of keeping any longer any caste institution. Mr. Subba Aiyar, in his reply, said that the matter was engaging the attention of the High Court which has the control of the Law College and the hostel; and the Government promised to consider the question on obtaining the views of the High Court. Two years have now passed by and yet there is no prospect of this institution shedding itself of its caste garb. I should like to know what has become of that correspondence and whether the High Court forwarded any suggestions to the Government. If they did not do so, I should also like to know why the Government did not take any steps to throw open the Hostel to students of all classes.

The usual argument of want of sufficient accommodation is unfortunately not available to Government in this instance. In 1097, the institution had 56 students in residence; but in 1098, the Hostel had only 26 students showing a reduction of more than 50 per cent. Yet other students are not admitted. What does this state of affairs show? It shows either that Government do not pay any attention to these questions or that they are too much enamoured of all caste organisations. It seems to me that no other conclusion is possible in view of the great cost per student that is being incurred by Government in maintaining the institution. For housing 26 students, Government incurred in 1098 a net expenditure of Rs. 3,553, which works out at the rate of Rs. 127 per student. The fee income that Government can collect from each of the students is not more than Rs. 126. It therefore amounts to giving each of these lucky students a free tuition and an extra rupee as pocket money. I daresay most of these students hail from outside the State,

while a large number of students who are natives of the soil are allowed to shift for themselves in the best manner they could. I need hardly say more to show that the position of the Government is quite indefensible. Yet I have no doubt that the Government spokesman will certainly find arguments to convince us that what has not been done is that which cannot be done and has therefore to be endured. Therefore I should like to hear what the Government member has to say on the question.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I stated in 1097 that the maintenance of the Law College Hostel was absolutely necessary if we had to continue the Law College at all, and that the majority of the students in the Law College were caste Hindus. The result was that the present Hostel was started; and when this question was mooted, I said that the matter was under the consideration of the High Court. The High Court have not recommended the establishment of any other Hostel. But I may inform the member and the House that the Government wanted to start a non-caste Hindu Hostel for both the College of Arts and the Law College together; but there was no response from the students to show that they were willing to go in for that arrangement. Therefore the matter had to be dropped. It is therefore not that the Government were indifferent with reference to the admission of non-caste Hindus.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Was it with respect to the Law College?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Law College and the Arts College.

PRESIDENT: A common Hostel for all the Colleges.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Including the Science College?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The separation of the Arts and Science Colleges took place only very recently.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): May I know whether a reminder was sent by the Government to the High Court?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think there was any reminder. No report has been received. I may probably tell the reason why no response was made to the offer of Government. Although in theory it is stated that another Hostel should be started, we may, if we go into the statistics, find that generally many of the students find it cheaper to live outside than in the Hostel. For, I understand that the ordinary messing charges for two meals, coffee in the morning and tiffin in the afternoon, would be about Rs. 30 a month; for meals alone the charges would be not less than Rs. 15, so that living in the Hostel is much more costly than elsewhere. As for the observation of Mr. Kumaran, that we are paying more than we are getting, I may assure the member that the Hostel students themselves are not very much benefited; and we have to maintain the Hostel, as I said, on account of the University Regulations. The only thing that the Government pay is the rent for the Hostel and the cost of

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

keeping a small establishment. Every other charge incidental to the Hostel is being paid by the students who enjoy the benefit of it and therefore I say that the students are not in any way unduly benefited.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are they not getting free medical aid? There is a medical officer.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I suppose so. I do not know whether there is any difficulty elsewhere as regards this.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Who visits the students in their homes and attends them?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is, so far as the others are concerned, no such complaint has been received and therefore I am not in a position to answer that question. Therefore I say it is not due to any indifference on the part of the Government that another hostel was not started, but because the number is very small; and if a Hostel is started, the cost may be much more. The larger the number the less will be the cost. It may be that on account of the prohibitive nature of the cost no person comes in for admission.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether there is any objection to compelling the Pleadership students also to live in the Hostel?

PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any prohibition against the Pleadership students using the Hostel.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether anybody applied for admission?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know.

PRESIDENT: Pleadership students are also students of the Law College.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is only in a technical sense.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Anyhow nobody ever pressed for it and I do not think there is any specific prohibition in this direction.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Would the non-caste Hindu also be admitted into the present Hostel?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As I stated, we want a separate kitchen.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If there is a vacancy, will any man be admitted?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A separate kitchen is necessary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Of course it is.

PRESIDENT: It is a rented building. Who is going to put up a separate kitchen?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): The University authorities want only a Hostel, I suppose?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): And not a caste-Hindu Hostel?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, no.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Is there any objection to have a non-caste Hostel for some time and then to have a caste-Hindu Hostel, if necessary?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The rule is always the rule of the majority. If we consider the strength of the College, we find that, out of about 200 students, more than 140 or 150 are caste Hindus and the non-caste Hindus are very few in number. So that the result will be to keep away a very large majority for the sake of a very small number, and I do not think it will be proper.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*); I think separate kitchens may be provided.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has there been a single instance of a non-caste Hindu applying for admission?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think there is.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is there any institution like the Caste Hindu Hostel anywhere in South India?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I suppose there are separate kitchen arrangements.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is there any such thing as a Caste Hindu Hostel anywhere else?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is no such thing. When the new Arts and Science College Hostel is completed, it will not be called a Caste Hindu Hostel and everybody will have access to it. There must be separate kitchen arrangement to suit the convenience of non-caste Hindus.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I think that most of the members of this House must sympathise with the awkward situation of the Law Member in the replies that he had to give to the questions asked by some of us here. The Law College Hostel, call it what you will, is a preserve for cast Hindus alone. As far as I can see, in spite of all the denials that have been made on the other side,—

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

PRESIDENT: He did not deny it. He said that facilities did not exist.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes. But at least for one man facilities might have existed some time or other. I think the Hostel is a close preserve for the caste Hindus.

PRESIDENT: He also said that facilities were sought to be created but that there was no response.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When accommodation is found, everybody will be coming in. Now take the Women's College Hostel here. That is a standing example to every other Hostel. There is no caste or creed there. If young ladies can mix together there—they are more orthodox than young men—if young ladies of high families can mix with non-caste young ladies, I do not see why there should be any sort of restriction in admitting non-caste young men to the College Hostels. This bar sinister on the non-caste Hindus and Christians and everybody else must be removed. We have here the highest Brahmin sitting cheek by jowl with non-caste Hindus. The scene has changed entirely. In the Darbar Hall we saw an example of what the change was. I was so happy to hear the other day that Her Highness the Maha Rani was pleased to show her young baby to all the girls of the local Women's College Hostel in her own Palace without making any distinction of caste or creed. This is a noble example that has been set by our Queen. I think we ought to follow it. I feel very very keenly with Mr. Kumaran and with everybody else that we should be looked upon as a sort of "untouchables" in this matter. If there is no kitchen, one must be built. If it involves a few more rupees, it does not matter. But this ban must, once for all, be removed.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not find any difficulty in Government being able to provide kitchen accommodation in this building even though it is a rented building. If the owner of the building is not prepared to put up a kitchen separately for non-caste Hindus or Christians, Government can put up a small kitchen at their own expense and remove the building or sell it away at the time they would be vacating that building. I do not think that difficulty is insurmountable. Mr. Subba Aiyar has told us that many students are not coming forward for taking up rooms in this institution. At any rate, it is desirable that Government must declare their policy and say that, if students are willing, Government would make arrangements in this institution, so much so that, whether they may come or may not come, this appellation of Caste-Hindu Hostel may be changed. We may very well have an ordinary Hostel, and even if one non-caste Hindu turns up and if it is convenient for the committee to accommodate him in that institution he may very well be accommodated. Otherwise he may be asked to bring with him at least six or seven others and then all of them may be permitted to enjoy the privileges of the Hostel. At any rate, the maintenance of the institution, as it is, is certainly not defensible

Government may say that, if a sufficient number is forthcoming, they are prepared to put up a kitchen. This means that even if a single student is not admitted there is no blame cast on Government.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I have to say only a word in reply. If I were arguing in a court, I would simply say I must get a decree on the argument of Mr. Hoogewerf. Because, he says that, so far as the Women's College Hostel is concerned, the Government do not observe any distinction between caste and non-caste Hindus and in the Darbar Hall and on other occasions the Government do not observe any such distinction whatever, so that, if any difference was made in this particular instance, it was on account of want of accommodation. The Hostel itself is located in a rented building. The owner must be prepared to put up more accommodation or permit extra kitchens being put up there. In the absence of such circumstances, it is not feasible.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether the Government applied to the owner of the property for permission for putting up a kitchen?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It means additional cost, and unless there was demand from the non-caste Hindus up to a certain number justifying the necessity for going in for that extra cost I do not think Government would be justified in taking that step. When the Government said that they were prepared to open a Hostel for non-caste Hindus, whether for the Arts College or for the Law College, there was no response. So we can only do all that is possible for us to do; and if there was no response, I do not know whether the House itself will be prepared to sanction an estimate for a purpose which may never be required.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): How many kitchens will be necessary for non-caste Hindus?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That depends upon the number of the communities.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the presumable number?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Probably not less than two.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): There are only two communities?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know. Perhaps two or three will be required.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Can we not get the information from the Women's College Hostel without any difficulty?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is there anything to prevent cooking in the same kitchen and giving the non-caste Hindus also that food, if they do not object to the same, in separate dining parlours?

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That solution did not suggest itself. Whether they will be satisfied with a vegetarian meal is, however, a matter which will have to be gone into, and the wishes of the other students will also have to be ascertained.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are not the Ezhavas vegetarians?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Mr. Kumaran is a better authority.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Can the Government notify to the effect that those having vegetarian diet can be admitted?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That matter will be looked into.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 167.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:—

167. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,646 for Law College and Hostel by Rs. 100.

Motion 168.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

168. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,044 for temporary establishment for Temporary Sirkar Vakils.

The budget provides for six permanent District Court Sirkar Vakils and three temporary Sirkar Vakils. The necessity for the retention of these temporary Sirkar Vakils was fully discussed in the Finance Committee, and the non-official members of the Committee were not satisfied that there was any necessity for continuing the staff. The figures kindly supplied to us by the department do not also induce us to accept the proposal to continue the staff for another year. I would therefore move that the establishment for the temporary Sirkar Vakils be dispensed with.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know what were the figures supplied?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I suppose Mr. Subba Aiyar will be able to give us the figures just now. So far as the figures supplied to us then were concerned, we were not convinced that there was any necessity for continuing the staff.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I may say that the figures that were available then were not very satisfactory. But, since then, we have called for the necessary figures, and I have not the slightest doubt that the House will be satisfied as to the absolute necessity for the allotment.

Going to Kottayam first, the number of civil suits pending at the end of the year 1099 was 45. The number of land acquisition references pending at the end of that year was 29, and the number of sessions cases last year was 23, though the average of sessions cases pending in previous years is seen to be not less than 36. Somehow or other, last year it was less. Going into the actual nature of the civil cases pending, it will be found that there were 17 cases pending before the first bench, 18 cases before the second bench and 8 cases before the third bench. Of these 18 cases before the second bench, one is by the Vanjipuzha Chief covering an area of 3,436 acres, another by the Edapalli Chief with reference to an area of 1,663 acres and a third about the Peermade Residency covering an area of 375 acres, and two suits by Mr. P. T. Thomas which are very heavy, one to the extent of 7,512 acres and the other to the extent of about 2,052 acres. Before the third bench, there are two cases of Poonjar covering large areas. Each of these cases in itself requires the entertainment of a vakil, because he has to go through all the papers, plaints and written statements and the documents that will have to be produced and that will be produced on the other side, judge of the necessary evidence that has to be let in and do the needful in the matter. As I said, there are 26 cases before the second bench and the third bench. Going into the duration or pendency of these cases, we find that the cases begin from 1087. There is a case of 1087, namely O. S. 59 of 1087, and another of 1089, namely O. S. 94 of 1089. There are five cases of 1091 and there are also cases of 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095 and 1096. We may take it practically that the cases filed from 1087 forwards are still pending and that almost all of them are very heavy.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know why there has been so much of delay in regard to these cases?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Probably on account of the nature of many of the cases mentioned and also on account of the fact that the Judges could not find time to dispose of them because there were a large number of other cases. If we consider the work of the Sirkar Vakils proper, namely, the work before the Sessions Judge, we find that the first Judge was engaged in sessions for 120 days and I may inform the House that the average number of working days in a year is only about 200. For 120 days the first bench was engaged in sessions; the second bench was engaged in sessions for 14 days and the third bench for 13 days. Sometimes it so happens that, when sessions cases are posted, a large number of witnesses appear, and the case taken up cannot be closed, and, therefore, the witnesses in the other cases cannot be examined on the days on which they are posted and the cases will have to be adjourned and the witnesses in the other cases bound over. Of course the cases may be sent to the second or the third bench if there is a Sirkar Vakil to conduct them. We find that at Kottayam it has taken 147 days for the trial of sessions cases. Over and above this, there are criminal appeals to engage the attention of Sirkar Vakils and 17 civil cases before the first bench also to engage him. When we have appointed Second Judges and

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

Third Judges and when the House is particular to have these old cases cleared off, I do not know whether it will be proper for the Government to say that we are not in a position to engage another vakil and that the case may be put off. Members of the bar, who are members of this House, know as a matter of fact that the practice in the High Court has of late been that, even though a single vakil has to appear before the three benches in respect of different cases, his cases are simultaneously boarded before the three benches.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether it is not the practice in the District Courts to see that as far as possible Sirkar cases are posted before one bench?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is what I say. If as far as possible all these cases at Kottayam, for instance, are posted before the First Judge, I do not think that there will ever be a time when these cases will be disposed of, because he has to attend to sessions work for about 150 days, and he has to dispose of criminal appeals not to speak of execution and other civil original work. So that he will have no time to attend to old cases.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is he aware whether the majority of these cases are not petty cases concerning *tiruppuvaram*?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I think almost all those cases are before the Second Judge. I was referring to Kottayam. I will come to the other courts one after the other. So far as Kottayam is concerned, I do not think there will be any difficulty.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know when the District Judges go to court every day?

PRESIDENT: The time allotted to this Demand will expire in two minutes more.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether they come to court at 11 O'clock or later and whether the Government have any means of finding out whether they come at all.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYRA (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If my friend puts in an interpellation on that point, the necessary information may be called for. It is a long time since I attended District Courts, and, therefore, I do not know exactly when the Judges go to court. But, during the time I was practising in the District Court, I found that the Judges used to attend at half past eleven.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I believe the details now given are not merely personal.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): They do not say when the Judge attends court. As for the sessions courts, I may say, and I believe that it is my experience, that the Judges always attend court not later than 11-30 A. M.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know from Mr. Subba Aiyar whether the heavy arrears in court are not partly due to the vakils asking for adjournment very frequently?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May be due to that. I am prepared to plead guilty to that charge of Mr. Hoogewerf.

So far as Kottayam is concerned, there is no difficulty. Then passing on to Quilon, I may inform the House that, of all the courts which enjoy the privilege of a second Sirkar Vakil, Quilon appears to be the heaviest, so far as criminal work is concerned, because we find the average never comes below 39 in Quilon. The number of appeals is very high and the number of sessions cases is also very heavy, and I may say that most of the civil cases are pending before the First Judge, and, consequently, they are getting old. Apart from that, there are very many land acquisition references before the Second Judge. The number of such references is now 20. It was 60 before. Although it is only 20 now, the remaining 40 cases which were at various stages of investigation were all of them disposed of by the Second Judge on the ground that the land acquisition officer did not make the reference in his own handwriting. That is on a technical ground. The land acquisition officer has only to copy the old order in his own handwriting and send it back. We may take it practically then that there are 60 references which are very heavy. As we know from experience, so far as compensation goes, the Sirkar is generally the loser, for want of due precaution with reference to the value of the property that is proposed to be taken up. Therefore every precaution has to be taken to see that only proper value is given, and the Sirkar Vakil has to look sharp to see that the person whose land is taken also gets the value in time. I know as a matter of fact—although I have nothing to do with the Sirkar Vakils' offices—from many clients who came and told me that although it is five years since references had been made they were still pending before the District Court, Quilon, and that though their lands had been taken up they did not get the value for them. That is because the court was not in a position to dispose of the cases. Taking criminal work, it is the heaviest there.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): How long has the temporary Sirkar Vakil been working there?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Of late, for a couple of years or so. There was a break for some time and then the work accumulated, so that there also the work requires the assistance of a Sirkar Vakil. Probably if all these were disposed of and especially at Kottayam if all these old cases were polished off, I believe the work might not be heavy.

When we come to Trivandrum, we find that there are three Judges working here. There are Sirkar cases pending before the Second Judge and it will not be possible for the District Judge to dispose all of them because I find that the sessions work engages him

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

for more than 180 days according to the returns in the year, and the Sessions Judge has absolutely no time to attend to old cases which are pending before the Second Judge. I was just referring to the practice which now exists in courts and I believe the Government will have no defence whatsoever if that practice continues. When a Vakil has to appear before the three benches, the High Court insist upon a junior being appointed and say that they would not grant the necessary indulgence to a Vakil because he appeared in another court. I do not know whether it will be fair to the Judges, the clients or the opposite side for the Government to say "that inasmuch as our Sirkar Vakils are engaged in another place a particular case should not be taken up. I think it will be rather an indefensible position for the *Government* "to take up. When they insist upon Judges to see that the arrears are cleared up, it is absolutely essential that there should be some body to represent the Sirkar before these several Judges. It may probably be asked whether it will not be possible to engage in such cases some private vakils temporarily, and pay for every case. To my mind, it is cheaper to pay these Sirkar Vakils than engage private vakils, which would cost much more. The salary that we pay to a Sirkar Vakil now is only a small pittance. Therefore when there are judges working in the second and third benches when there are very many old cases and land acquisition references pending at Trivandrum, Kottayam and Quilon, respectively, I ask the House to say whether it will be fair to withdraw all the Sirkar Vakils and insist upon all these cases being disposed of by the First Judge or Sessions Judge. I believe the explanation I have offered just now must satisfy the House and I hope they will be pleased to sanction he establishment for the temporary Sirkar Vakils.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: The time is over Mr. Nidiry; and I think I will have to put the Demand to the vote.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I have just a word to say. So far as the Kottayam court is concerned, I am of opinion that, since there are three courts working, at least for some time more two Sirkar Vakils are absolutely necessary.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The arguments of Mr. Subba Aiyar were already before us when we originally considered the scheme for the continuance of the temporary Sirkar Vakils. As for Trivandrum and Quilon, because Mr. Nidiry has pleaded so far as Kottayam is concerned that it may be necessary for some time more to post two Sirkar Vakils there—the arrears do not appear to be very heavy. If an arrangement can be made to have all the cases posted before the first bench, it may be possible for the permanent Sirkar Vakil to attend to all the cases.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Before the second bench of Trivandrum there are 17 cases from 1094.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): When was that return prepared?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): After the close of 1099, there were 58 of them. The return was received very recently.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In three of these cases the Sirkar admitted the claim?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe we got the figure yesterday.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I also know—

PRESIDENT: Let him answer Mr. Parameswaran Pillai's question.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe that I got the figure towards the end of 1099, and I do not think there is much difference. From the return it will be seen that the number of civil cases pending at the end of 1099 is 58. The statement received yesterday shows the same number. I believe the figures that were sent up are quite correct because the figures were 41 before the First Judge and 17 before the Second or 58 in all. So that I do not think that makes any difference because the list I got yesterday afternoon shows the pendency as 58.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is he aware that two of the heavy cases mentioned by him as still pending in the Kottayam District Court have been disposed of?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know. Probably, they have been disposed of after the return was sent up. So as Trivandrum is concerned, I wanted to make sure of the number. I believe some 17 cases were pending at the beginning of 1094 and we are now in 1100. Especially when the Sessions Judge is busy with sessions cases, I do not know whether it will be possible to transfer all these cases to him so that the work may become current.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 19 voting *for* and 20 *against*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I demand a poll.

A poll was then taken with the following result:—

[Mr. Parameswaran Pillai.]

AYES—19.

1. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.
2. „ M. R. Madhava Variar.
3. „ M. N. Pillai.
4. „ P. K. Narayana Pillai.
5. „ N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
6. „ N. Padmanabha Pillai.
7. „ G. Paramesvaran Pillai
8. „ Joseph Panjikaran.
9. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai (*Tiruvalla*).
10. „ N. Kumaran.
11. „ T. Kumara Pillai.
12. Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.
13. „ V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
14. The Rev. Fr. Kriakose Vettikkapalli.
15. Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
16. „ A. Govinda Menon.
17. „ Paul V. Daniel.
18. „ T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
19. „ A. Hoogewerf.

NOES—20.

1. Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.
2. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
3. „ R. Krishna Pillai.
4. „ K. George.
5. „ J. Stephenson.
6. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
7. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries).
8. „ S. C. H. Robinson.
9. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
10. Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
11. „ M. Raja Raja Varma.
12. „ I. C. Chacko.
13. Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose.
14. Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.
15. „ A. J. Van Ross.
16. „ P. Paramesvaran.
17. „ J. John Nidiry.
18. „ P. T. Thomas.
19. „ S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
20. „ John Mackie.

The motion was declared lost.

Motion 169.

The following motion was not moved, as motion 168, which related to the same subject, was lost.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

169. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,044 for temporary establishment for Temporary Sirkar Vakils.

Motion 170 to 179.

The following motions lapsed as the time allotted for the Demand had expired :—

MR. N. KUMARAN :

170 To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for fees to vakils.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

171. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for fees to vakils by Rs. 2,000.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

172. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for fees to vakils by Rs. 2,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

173. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for fees to vakils by Rs. 2,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

174. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,800 for Additional Head Sirkar Vakil by Rs. 800.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

175. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,800 for Additional Head Sirkar Vakil by Rs. 100.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

176. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,787 for Law Officers by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

177. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,877 for Law Officers by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

178. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,787 for Law Officers by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

179. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6·80 lakhs under Demand IX by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote of the House, Demand IX—Administration of Justice—Rs. 6·80 lakhs *minus* Rs. 100, and I take it that the House sanctions it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND X.—CENTRAL PRISON.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·78 lakh under Demand X—Central Prison.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to move—

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The amount of the Demand excludes the amount of Rs. 5,000 and odd, as would be seen from the note in the motion paper.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Then I do not move the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know why the amount has been deducted?

PRESIDENT: Certain schemes were originally included in the budget. But they were subsequently omitted on account of the increase of expenditure in connection with the flood havoc. The whole amount has not been deleted; a sum of Rs. 500 and odd has been retained.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Then I do not also move my motion.

Motions 180 to 183.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. N. KUMARAN:

180. To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,650 for purchase and repair of machines.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

181. To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,650 for purchase and repair of machines.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

182. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,650 for purchase and repair of machines by Rs. 5,150.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

183. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,650 for purchase and repair of machines by Rs. 3,000.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

PRESIDENT: I now put, to the vote of the House, Demand X—Central Prison—Rs. ·78 lakh and I take it that the House sanctions it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XI—POLICE.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·06 lakhs under Demand XI—Police.

The following motions were not moved:—

Motions 184 to 189.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

184. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,700 for travelling allowances by Rs. 500.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

185. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,090 for purchase of stores, equipment and clothing by Rs. 5,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

186. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,000 for purchase of stores, equipment and clothing by Rs. 3,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

187. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for rewards by Rs. 300.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

188. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for fees to vakils by Rs. 300.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

189. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 300.

Motion 190.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

190. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 39,150 for Police Commissioner by Rs. 100.

I am making this motion in order to discuss the alleged inhuman and illegal acts committed by the police force at Vaikam towards the subjects of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent of Travancore. Ever since the students' strike and police hooliganism in the compound of His Highness the Maha Raja's College, the conduct of the police has become the subject of adverse comment. To crown their scandalous conduct, it is universally believed that the police, who are supposed to be the protectors of law and who are maintained with public funds to protect the property and person of the citizens of this State, flagrantly violated the laws of the State in open daylight before an assemblage of citizens and brutally assaulted the volunteers and other *khadar*-clad persons that were present on the occasion. In the beginning of the *satyagraha* movement, the police force were apparently following the policy of non-intervention and doing their legitimate duty of guarding the extremities

of the prohibited roads. But when the Ag. Commissioner took charge of the office, a feeling was created that he changed the policy of the Department and attempted by terrorism to suppress a movement started for the purpose of asserting a right with non-violent means. When the acts of goondaism committed by the police and the *savarna* rowdies were published in the newspapers, the Government, instead of holding a public enquiry and vindicating the conduct of the police or meting out punishment to the delinquents, called upon the District Magistrate who is suspected to be in league with caste-Hindu oppositionists and who along with other officials is reported to have fomented the trouble, to make an enquiry; and his report is published as a Press Communiquè, in answer to the charges levelled against the police. His report has been challenged and contradicted in various newspapers by responsible persons and has been established to be a document of *suppressio veri* and *suggestio falsi*. Mr. Satchit, the Associated Press correspondent, has given the lie direct to the District Magistrate's report by challenging that officer to point out any false statement in his report. The answer which the District Magistrate has vouchsafed to this challenge was that, as he was an official, he could not correspond with Mr. Satchit. The report of the District Magistrate is entirely based on the statement of police officers whose conduct is now impugned by the public. A similar version of the police atrocities at Vaikam, now propounded by the Ag. Commissioner of Police, is probably based on the same source. Sir, I have several times gone to Vaikam since the commencement of the *satyagraha* movement to ascertain the true state of affairs. I have seen and talked to the persons who were inhumanly treated by the police and the *savarna* oppositionists.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether he is an eye-witness to any inhuman act committed by any police officer there?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I am not.

The report of the District Magistrate and the budget speech delivered by the Ag. Police Commissioner will not convince anybody who knows anything about the Vaikam affair of the innocence of the police. These documents are distrusted and the people were taken aback at finding the remarkable audacity of the Government in publishing a colourable and one-sided report after allowing the police to commit breaches of the law and without making any public or impartial enquiry. The police and the other officials were not behaving in an impartial manner. Instead of doing their legitimate duty, they took the side of *savarna* oppositionists and seem to have encouraged them to commit acts of violence. It is reported that the police were acting as propagandists for the *savarna* oppositionists and were intimidating the relations and parents of the *satyagraha* volunteers at Vaikam and the citizens who assembled to protest against police atrocities. The *savarna* opposition was organised when the Ag. Commissioner of Police was at Vaikam. Though it was reported in the newspapers that there was a conference of

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

the police officers before the organisation of the *savarna* opposition, Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai disclaims all knowledge of the movement except the fact that some replies he gave to *savarna* Hindus, who came to represent their grievances on the 8th Mithunam, might have induced them to start the movement. He says: 'Had I known it then, I would have requested them at least to postpone starting it by a day, so that I might get away from the place." This sentence gives a clue to the mentality of the Ag. Police Commissioner. If he loved peace and if he had any sense of duty he would have remained there and prevented any breach of the peace. Instead of that, he says he would have run away without taking any action just to save his own skin. It is this spirit of partisanship and lack of sense of duty that conduced to the scandalous behaviour of the police at Vaikam. Though on the 10th morning, when the *savarna* opposition was started, the Ag. Police Commissioner was at Vaikam, he refrained from taking any action against the *savarna* goondas. He did not request the Magistrate to issue a prohibitory order against the rowdies. A careful perusal of the Commissioner's budget speech is sufficient to show that he is a partisan of the *savarna* oppositionists and a hater of *satyagraha* volunteers. He has tried to heap abuses upon the *satyagrahis* to show that his minions are angels and have not gone beyond the law. Assuming for the sake of argument that the volunteers are recruited largely from " run-aways and do-nothings and failures in education, " is it an excuse for the police to maltreat them in public? The police force cannot show men of better status and record. Mr. Krishna Pillai seems to have an exaggerated notion of his police force. He thinks that all the citizens of Travancore must *kow-tow* to the police and respect them as high functionaries and dignitaries. He has several times emphasised the fact that the volunteers disobey the police and constitued authority. As an instance of insult offered to the police authority, he has mentioned the case of a volunteer who refused to hand over a notice to the District Suprintendent of Police when requested to do so. Such old-fashioned notions of dignity are incompatible with the spirit of the age. The people are giving up their slave mentality and asserting their rights. They will not stoop to pay undue homage to the khaki as in olden times. The boy who refused to hand over the notice was right in doing so. If such acts are taken to be defiance of authority, and if the Ag. Police Commissioner, who is an educated man, is imbued with such notions of false dignity, it is no wonder that ordinary police officers assaulted and maltreated the volunteers when they began to spin in front of the barricade against the orders of the police. Mr. Krishna Pillai thinks that policemen's illegal orders must be obeyed without demur. If the volunteers committed any nuisance, they ought to have been immediately prosecuted before the magistracy. The police allowed caste-Hindu rowdies to beat kerosene tins and to sing obscene songs when the volunteers were spinning. The noise of the kerosene tins was agreeable to the ears of the police and no nuisance case was taken against those rowdies! On the whole, the action of the police

was nothing but sacandalous and it may be said that Vaikam was given up to the police *raj* for some days. The laws of the State were violated by their own protectors. If these acts of lawlessness are to go uninvestigated and unpunished, the people have to think twice before they vote *any* amount to be spent upon the police force. So, I request the Government to make an impartial enquiry into the matter and to convince the public of the innocence of the police.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) May I know from Mr. Madhava Variar if he is aware that any formal complaint was made before the Police Commissioner or to the District Magistrate against these alleged acts of rowdyism?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not know whether any complaint was made formally, but I know that there were general complaints.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I admire the boldness' the courage and the patriotism of Mr. Madhava Variar in bringing before this House the alleged atrocities of the Police at Vaikam. I asked a series of questions and supplementary questions and I am sorry to say that the answers given by the Law Member were far from satisfactory. I fear that things at Vaikam are not what they should be

Before I go further, allow me, Sir, to express my great joy at seeing, at the corner of this House, Mr. Pitt, our popular Police Commissioner. I hope that he has had a good time of it in the old country. (Mr. John Mackie: *Laughter*.) I mention his name particularly because he has shown what a true Englishman is. He has shown sympathy, broad-mindedness and kindness to the people in their fight for liberty. An Englishman, if he is anything, is liberty personified.

PRESIDENT: I do not think it is relevant to the motion in hand. (*Laughter*.)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir; I am just coming to it.

The Ag. Police Commissioner made a long speech most of which I was not able to hear. But I perused it in the newspapers and I have that speech with me now side by side with the official Communiquè. I shall first deal with the official Communiquè itself.

PRESIDENT: I may remind you that you have only five minutes' time.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I find some discrepancy in the official Communiquè. The Police Commissioner said in his speech that the *satyagrahis* were obstructing the road, making "hoarse noise" and so on. I read the Assistant Superintendent's letter on which the District Magistrate has based his report. I see in that report that the Assistant Superintendent himself invited the *satyagrahis* to go to these barricades and carry on spinning, and that he only objected to the noise of the *charkas* and to their songs being hoarse. I do not know if hoarseness in singing is a crime. Anyway, I compared

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

the Communiquè *viz.*, the District Magistrate's version, with the Ag. Commissioner's version and I found much discrepancy between the two. One or the other of the two is not speaking the truth; I do not know which. (*Laughter.*) The Police Commissioner and the District Magistrate say that the *charkas* were obstructing the road. I do not know what obstruction could be caused by these *charkas* when a tremendous obstruction has been put up by the Government across the road in the shape of a barricade. The Ag. Police Commissioner has also stated that they were singing obscene songs. Not a word was mentioned in the District Magistrate's report about obscene songs. I do not know how he made out that obscene songs were being sung. Whatever it is, the fact remains that the Ag. Police Commissioner's visit to Vaikam was synchronous with all the troubles that were brought about at that time. He has been trying to find fault with his fate for being at Vaikam on that particular day when the *anti-satyagraha* movement was started. As I said, it has left a bad taste in one's mouth. When one reads between the lines of the report, it leaves an impression that he has an antipathy towards the *satyagraha* movement. Probably, he went there to crush the movement. I do not know if I am quite right in saying so; I may be wrong and I am open to correction. But I must repeat that the impression left in my mind is that he went there to start an *anti-satyagraha* movement. It is a very big question that is involved here. It is not a question of one set of people using violence on another. It is a very big principle that these people are fighting for, day in and day out, in the sun and rain. They are doing all this in a sort of martyrdom. I do not think they have the slightest idea of embarrassing the Government or the police or anybody else. They are fighting for freedom, for liberty and for equal rights; and in the interests of Government, in the interests of the people, as requested by Mr. Madhava Variar, I also raise my voice in prayer that a full enquiry may be made into this matter to see who is to blame and who is not to blame.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Mr. Madhava Variar as a lawyer confined himself to the real question in issue. He did not expatiate upon the merits of *satyagraha.* He did not eulogise it or cry it down. The matter for consideration by the House is whether certain acts alleged to have been committed by the police are proper or not. In the discussion of this question, our predilections and prejudices should not find a place. Whether *satyagraha* is right or wrong, if the police, who are charged with the maintenance of peace, have exceeded their powers and have gone against the very principles for which they exist, that certainly is a very serious allegation. It has been said that there have been a lot of reports about the high-handed acts of the police. The answer which Mr. Madhava Variar gave to my question discloses that, at any rate, to his knowledge,

there has not been any formal complaint either before the Ag. Commissioner of Police or before the District Magistrate. The police and the magistracy can work only with the co-operation of the citizens. Honest citizens ought, therefore, to take upon themselves the responsibility to vindicate the law. When the law lays it down in emphatic language that the offender will be punished, citizenship requires that men who want to vindicate the law should go and complain before the authorities.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): What is the principle adopted by the *satyagrahis* in regard to going to the courts?

PRESIDENT: You cannot be heard, Mr. Nidiry.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The principle of *satyagraha* is not the subject of discussion at this stage. We may have to discuss it later on. Whatever be the principle of *satyagraha*, the law is the law; and if anybody wants the protection of the law, he must make the complaint in the manner prescribed by statute. If a *satyagrahi* wants to institute a suit, he must pay court fees. If he wants the Police Commissioner or the Magistrate to start an enquiry, he must make a complaint. If the law prescribed a particular rule—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Magistrate cannot interfere in a case of breach of the peace that occurs on the public road?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Certainly, he can and he ought to interfere if he has knowledge. If he knows that there is likely to be a breach of the peace he is certainly bound in duty to take action, not against one party alone but against both parties. The police, Sir, are doing a duty which is onerous and irksome,—as irksome as it is necessary. They are between the d— and the deep sea.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I would like Mr. Velu Pillai to repeat what he said last.

PRESIDENT: You cannot ask him to repeat. You can only put a question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In decent society, Sir, there are certain words which are not used. (*Laughter.*) When I said 'd—' and when it was followed by the words 'deep sea,' everybody understands what is meant. (*Laughter.*)

If the police do not take prompt action, they are being accused for being dilatory in their work. If they take action, they are being accused for placing restriction on the liberty of the subject. I was reading in the newspapers just a few days back that, because the police were not efficient, the railings of the Public Offices were destroyed by the crowd on the Installation day. Many adverse comments were made about the matter. Now if the police had pushed a single citizen, that would have given rise to much more complaint and criticism than at present. I am not vindicating the police in any particular matter. I am only referring to a fact, *viz.*, that the police are doing their duty with very

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

great difficulty. It should therefore be the endeavour of every honest citizen to place matters definitely before the higher police officers and, if they are not prepared to take up the question, before the Magistrate or other officer who is responsible for the maintenance of peace and for the enforcement of law. Unfortunately that has not been done in the present case. The law-breakers, whether caste Hindus or non-caste Hindus, whether Travancoreans or non-Travancoreans, have to be dealt with in the manner prescribed by law.

Sir, we have heard a lot said about Travancore service being confined to Travancoreans. I ask, should not that principle be applied to this case also? Proceeding on the assumption that Travancore is for Travancoreans in all matters, I ask, where is the necessity for people from outside Travancore to come here and create difficulties, to break the law and to speak disrespectfully of the Royal family? Why do people not discourage them? I think the police have got a duty to see that people from other parts are not allowed to enter Travancore and to do anything which is not in conformity with the law. I am not saying this with regard to Travancoreans who are taking part in the movement. I only say that, consistent with our attitude in other matters, the police ought to have excluded from the boundaries of Travancore people who come here with the object of violating the law. To my mind, a serious difficulty presents itself. In olden times there was the co-ordination, in criminal work, between the magistracy and the police. Now, the District Superintendent thinks that he is answerable only to the Police Commissioner. The District Magistrate thinks that there is the Police Commissioner to do the needful. That is the reason why, as Mr. Hoogewerf pointed out, the version given by the District Magistrate differs in essential particulars from that of the District Superintendent. This is really unfortunate. Government should see that, with regard to serious matters about which serious accusations are likely to be made, there should not be any divergence in the statement of facts. I am speaking this only on the authority of the facts furnished by Mr. Hoogewerf. I have not compared the versions myself. I should also point out, Sir, that if these reports are true and if the police really assisted the caste Hindus in doing anything against law, against the non-caste Hindus or the *satyagrahis*, such police officer concerned, whoever he be, must at once be dismissed so that he may be made an example to others. It is said that slaked lime was thrown into somebody's eyes.

PRESIDENT: I would draw your attention to the time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): The question is whether the allegations against the police are supported by facts. It is for responsible citizens to see that the real facts are presented before the responsible authorities in the Police Department or the magistracy. The police and the magistracy must also call for the necessary information and if there is any probability that these things have taken place, then the Government must take prompt action and see that

offenders are brought to book. My position is that everything that is attributed to the police may not be true and that we want more definite and more tangible facts and not vague allegations.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I support the motion so ably moved by Mr. Madhava Variar. The occurrences at Vaikam during the early part of the month of Mithunam are well known to us and were the subject of comment both in this State and throughout India. The atrocities committed on the unoffending *satyagraha* volunteers at Vaikam were felt to be horrible by all right-thinking people throughout India. The fair name of the State itself for good and just government was questioned in all the Indian newspapers. There is no doubt that the acts mentioned at the time in all the newspapers *did* take place, and if complaints were not filed against the rowdies, it was simply because the policy of the Congress did not permit the volunteers to prefer them before the magistracy or the police.

PRESIDENT: You cannot be heard, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. Will you please speak a little louder?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): The anti-*satyagrahis* commenced their operations when the Ag. Police Commissioner was at Vaikam and the disturbances took place on the public road outside the barricade within the sight of the police in open daylight. It was the duty of the police to have prevented any breach of the peace taking place on the public roads, at any rate; and, instead of doing so in this case, the police were anxious to proceed against the volunteers on the very ground of provoking a breach of the peace, which they were not willing to recognise in the case of the action taken by the anti-*satyagrahis*. It is a matter for enquiry as to how the police were able to get on well with the volunteers till early in Mithunam and how disturbances began all on a sudden between the *satyagrahis* and the police soon after the Ag. Commissioner took charge of the Department. The police who were so keen as to detect the very noise of the *charka* as a nuisance were apparently indifferent to the brutal atrocities committed on the public road, and advantage has been taken of the fact that complaints have not been made by the *satyagrahis*. The Press Communiqué does not at all appear to me to represent the true state of affairs. I think under these circumstances the police are to blame for what has taken place at Vaikam and an enquiry into the conduct of the police is absolutely necessary. With these remarks, I support the motion.

MR T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, who is a native of Vaikam, whether half a dozen respectable gentlemen in Vaikam have told him that they have actually witnessed any of the alleged occurrences.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Not only half a dozen; I think, more than a dozen people came and told me, when I had been recently at Vaikam, that what is said to have taken place had really taken place there.

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is he prepared to give names?

PRESIDENT: Why did not those gentlemen give the necessary information to the authorities?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*); Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting Mr. Madhava Variar's motion. It is, no doubt, very unfortunate that *satyagraha* was started at Vaikam. It is more unfortunate that it should have been opposed by Government. I should consider that it is still more unfortunate that such unpleasant happenings should have taken place between the *satyagrahis* and the anti-*satyagrahis* on the one hand and between the *satyagrahis* and the police on the other. At the time when this movement was started, the behaviour of the police was complimented by all the Indian newspapers. I believe the Police Commissioner was complimented by Mr. Gandhi for the very exemplary manner in which the police conducted themselves. The Ag. Police Commissioner, in his speech last time, said that complaints against the police began even before he took charge of the Department. I have no doubt that to some extent his observation is true. Some slight mistakes were pointed out to Mr. Pitt while he was in charge of the Department and before the Ag. Police Commissioner took charge, and they were then and there rectified by Mr. Pitt. The serious objection raised both by the District Magistrate and by the Ag. Police Commissioner was that the *satyagrahis* were not behaving properly, that they were making noise behind the barricades by working with the *charkas*, and that they were, by placing the *charkas* behind the barricades obstructing the road. In the first place, on account of the action of Government in putting up the barricades across the road, it was not correct to say that the *charkas* did obstruct the free passage along the road. I have gone to Vaikam; I have seen the barricades myself. There are two openings on either end of the western barricade for people to pass through. More than two-thirds of the road has been obstructed by the Government barricades. For some time, in one of these barricades a *charka* was being placed and yarn was being spun. This was going on even before the 7th and 10th Mithunam. Now, it is quite clear, from this occurrence between the 7th and the 10th Mithunam, that there must have been some particular circumstance why the police should have found the *satyagrahis* growing disobedient all on a sudden and making all sorts of noise and disturbance in the public street. We have read in the newspapers that, long before Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai went to Vaikam, *charkas* were brought near the barricades and were also removed by the police. As soon as the *charkas* were demanded, they were handed over to the police by the *satyagrahis*. There was therefore absolutely no necessity for violence. The description given by the Ag. Police Commissioner is very interesting. Reading between the lines, there can be no doubt that the police have been actually using violence towards the *satyagrahis*. The expression used by him is that the police

had to push the volunteers in order to get hold of the *charkas* from their hands. After reading this we can at once come to the conclusion as to the truth of the matter. In order to wrest an article from another person, we do not push him away but only drag him in. Therefore, as long as there is this clear admission on the part of the Ag. Police Commissioner, it is evident that the police have been using violence. As a matter of fact, they were removing the *charkas* even before the 7th Mithunam. If, as a matter of fact, they were not using violence before, there is no reason why violence should have been used for the removal of the *charkas* from the hands of the volunteers.

Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai said, in the course of his speech in the budget debate, that no complaint was lodged, either by the *satyagrahis* or by any other persons interested in the *satyagrahis*, against the conduct of the police or of the anti-*satyagrahis*. In this connection we will have to understand the position of the *satyagrahi* His object is to obtain expiation for sin by a simple process of *tapas* and thus change the heart of the opponent. Therefore if an anti-*satyagrahi* beats him and offers him any resistance, it is not possible for him to go to a court and file a complaint, for, from that moment they are ranged against each other as complainant and accused and there can be no possibility of their coming to some sort of agreement.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Excepting the *satyagrahis*, I ask Mr. Kumaran, cannot any one who is not a *satyagrahi* but who merely sympathises with the cause of the *satyagrahis* put in a complaint before the Magistrate?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I thought my friend being a lawyer would not put me such a question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It is because I am a lawyer that I am putting this question.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The police have been assaulting the *satyagrahis* and I do not think it is—

PRESIDENT: Your charge was that others were assaulting the *satyagrahis* in the presence of the police.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): What I am submitting is that there were two charges. One is that the police were assaulting the *satyagrahis* and the other is that they did not take any action against the anti-*satyagrahis*. These assaults are taking place in the public thoroughfare and in the view of the police. It is taking place at about a distance of a furlong from the barricade.

PRESIDENT: You are assuming that the assault takes place at the barricade.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I know exactly where it took place. I know every inch of that road. Therefore I can say exactly where this incident has taken place. It was also clear from the several refutations published by the Publicity Bureau since the publication of the Press Communiqué and the speeches delivered by Mr. Krishna Pillai

[MR. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

that the police officers were present, and particularly on one day, that is on the 9th or the 10th, it was through the help of one of the Head Constables who was on duty at the barricade that the *satyagrahis* were able to take food at 6 o' clock at the barricade. The anti-*satyagrahis* do not permit anybody to go to the other side and they do not permit the volunteers to go to the barricade to take their meals. From 6 in the morning till 6 in the evening it was a regular siege. With the help of a police officer, meals were taken through the cordon of the anti-*satyagrahis*. That is specially described in one of their refutations. What I therefore submit is that it cannot be said that the *satyagrahis* were exaggerating things. It cannot also be said that they were behaving indecently and that they were using violence against the police or against people who were passing along the road. The District Magistrate himself admits that the *satyagrahis* did not use force. But the Ag. Police Commissioner wants us to believe that the behaviour of the police did not actually amount to using force but came near it. What I want to say is that the *satyagrahis* are under strict discipline and I wish to ask whether at any moment *satyagrahis* have been found behaving badly.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Are not the police too under discipline?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am not speaking of the police.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): You were speaking against the police.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The police were being accused even from the commencement of the *satyagraha*.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from Mr. Kumaran whether he can specify any particular officer who has misbehaved against the *satyagrahis*?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am referring to the various publications.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I want to know whether my friend is able to specify names.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): If my friend wants it, I will give it afterwards. I have not got the names ready. I can specify the names of persons who received injuries and the names of several respectable gentlemen who were present at that time. Their names were mentioned in the report published by the Satyagraha Publicity Bureau. Mr. Satchit, representative of the *Hindu*, has definitely stated that he was present on the occasion and he has challenged the District Magistrate to show—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the report of a representative of the *Hindu* is to be more relied upon than the report of the District Magistrate.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am not prepared to answer that question.

PRESIDENT: I must draw your attention to the time. You have been speaking for 13 minutes.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, the charge that was made by my friend Mr. Madhava Variar is that the anti-*satyagrahis* are maltreating the *satyagrahis* with the connivance and help of the police. On that account he has stated that an enquiry must be held. I think that this is a matter which can be discussed and voted upon without going into the righteousness or otherwise of the *satyagraha* movement or any other thing. Whether the *satyagraha* movement is right or wrong, the question of ill-treatment is quite another. Even prisoners of war are to be respected. Even persons who have been sent to jail on conviction have to be treated properly. Even granting that the *satyagraha* movement is a wrong movement, the only question before the House is whether the ill-treatment which is alleged to have been given to the *satyagrahis* is right and whether such ill-treatment has been meted out to them and whether the police have been instrumental in aiding or abetting the same. That is the only question with which we are concerned. From all quarters, from all newspaper reports and information that we have received from respectable persons, the rumour is very persistent that there was ill-treatment both by the police and other persons, aided and abetted by the former. That is the only question that we are concerned with at present. Is it right on the part of the police to have ill-treated the *satyagrahis*? I think, considering the volume of persistent report that we have concerning the matter, an enquiry into this matter is quite proper; and in that sense I support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ജനങ്ങളുടെ മാനത്തിനും ധനത്തിനും ജീവനുപോലും രക്ഷയായിട്ടു പൊലീസുകാരാണ് പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളെ ധാരാളമായി ഉപദ്രവിച്ചും അവരുടെ ധനം അപഹരിച്ചും പലതരത്തിൽ അവരെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തിവരുന്നവർ ഇവരിൽ പലരുമുണ്ടു്. പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിലാണു് ഇവരുടെ ഉപദ്രവം അധികമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇവരുടെ ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ കൂടുതൽ ജാഗരൂകത പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. മിസ്റ്റർ റാബിൻസൺ ലാൻഡ്റവന്യൂവകുപ്പുകാരിൽനിന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു വളരെ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുപോലെ മിസ്റ്റർ പിററും ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനായി ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുകാണുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ പോരാ, ഇനിയും കുറെക്കൂടി ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഉപദ്രവികളെ ജനങ്ങളോടു ചോദിച്ചു മനസ്സിലാക്കി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നു പിരിച്ചുകളയേണ്ടതാണ്. ചില്ലറ ശിക്ഷകൾകൊണ്ടൊന്നും അവർ ഗുണപ്പെടുകയില്ലെന്നാണ് അനുഭവത്തിൽനിന്നു കാണുന്നത്.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

PRESIDENT. We are not discussing the entire budget of the Police Department.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഇവിടെ കമ്മീഷണർക്കായുള്ള സംഖ്യ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയമായതുകൊണ്ടാണ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടതായ ഈ മാതിരി സംഗതികൂടി പറയുന്നത്. കമ്മീഷണർ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരെ വിശ്വസിച്ചിരുന്നാൽ പോരാ. വേലിതന്നെ വിളവുതിന്നുന്നതുപോലെയാണ് പോലീസുകാരുടെ ഉപദ്രവം. ഞാൻ മുമ്പ് ഈ അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാർ വേണമെന്നുള്ള പക്ഷക്കാരനായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അനുഭവത്തിൽനിന്ന് അവർ വേണമെന്നു പറയാൻ എനിക്കു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. (*Hear, hear.*) ഒരു കാര്യം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപദ്രവകരമാണെന്ന് എപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടാൽ ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനായി അതിനെ ഇവിടെ തുറന്നുപറയേണ്ടത് എന്റെ മുറയാണ്. ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ ഒരു വർഷം കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ സ്ഥലംമാറ്റേണ്ടതാണ്. കാൺസ്റ്റബിൾമാരേയും രണ്ടുവർഷത്തിലധികം ഒരിടത്തിരിക്കാനനുവദിക്കരുത്. സർക്കീട്ടിൽ വച്ചോ മററു വിധത്തിലോ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് അഴിമതിക്കാരെപ്പററി അറിവുകിട്ടിയാൽ അവരിൽ ശിക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിലും സ്ഥലം മാറേറണ്ടവരെ മാററുന്നതിലും കമ്മീഷണർ കൂടുതൽ ജാഗ്രതയോടെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം. ചില ദിക്കുകളിൽ പോലീസുകാർ അവിടത്തെ അക്രമികളുടെ പാർശ്വവർത്തികളായിട്ടാണ് ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവരുമായി സഖ്യം ചെയ്തു ജനോപദ്രവം തുടങ്ങുന്നതിനു പോലീസുകാർ ഒരുങ്ങുംമുമ്പ അവരെ അവിടെനിന്നു സ്ഥലംമാററിയാൽ രക്ഷയുണ്ട്. അതാണ് രണ്ടുവർഷം കൂടുമ്പോഴെങ്കിലും സ്ഥലംമാററം വേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നത്.

വൈക്കം റോഡിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ പോലീസുകാർ തടഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും ശരിയല്ല. പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ മുതലുകൊണ്ട് പോററിരക്ഷിച്ചുവരുന്ന പോലീസ് സൈന്യം പൊതുമുതൽകൊണ്ടു തീർത്തിട്ടുള്ള പബ്ലിക്കുറോഡിൽ നടക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ സൌകര്യത്തേയും സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തേയും തടഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് ഏററവും കഷ്ടതരമായ അവസ്ഥയാണെന്നു പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധിയെന്നനിലയിൽ ഇവിടെ എനിക്കു പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അവിടത്തെ റോഡരുകിലുള്ള വൃക്ഷങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം P. W. D. എന്ന് എഴുതീട്ടുള്ളതും പബ്ലിക്ക്വർക്ക്സ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നു പ്രസ്തുതറോഡ് മെയിൻറയിൻചെയ്തുവരുന്നതും എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിവുള്ളതാണല്ലോ.

PRESIDENT: அதைப்பற்றி இப்பொழுது discussion கிடையாது.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupzha*) : കമ്മീഷണരെക്കുറിച്ചു പറയുമ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കീഴിലുള്ള പോലീസുകാരുടെ കൃത്യങ്ങളെപ്പററിക്കൂടി പറയാമല്ലോ എന്നുവച്ചു പറഞ്ഞു എന്നേയുള്ളു. എന്തായാലും ഇതു രാജ്യസ്നേഹികൾക്കു സങ്കടകരമായ ഒരു കാര്യമാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുനിറുത്തുന്നു.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : Sir, I have already explained to the Council all the points that I considered worthy of consideration.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Louder, please.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : I do not therefore repeat what I have already said. I emphatically deny that the Police Department had anything to do with the assaults supposed to have been made on the *satyagrahis*. The police have done and are doing all they can to prevent the *satyagrahis* from being attacked by the anti-*satyagrahis*. Yet the *satyagrahis* are going on complaining in the newspapers that the police and the caste-Hindus are attacking them. In the case of persons who think that no misrepresentation can come from the *satyagrahis*, it is not possible to convince them that the police at Vaikam are more sinned against than sinning.

Mr. Kumaran has stated that the *satyagrahis* at Vaikam do not give information to the police because they have no intention of complaining and bringing anybody to punishment and that their object is merely to suffer and correct mistakes. If that be the case, I would ask him why the *satyagrahis* should be complaining to the newspapers, and that especially through the Publicity Bureau, by sending all sorts of false reports. (*Laughter.*)

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : If my friend wants a reply, I can answer. Is it not an interpellation?

PRESIDENT : You can explain.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The *satyagrahis* are suffering for the purpose of winning a particular object. The Publicity Bureau is necessary to inform the world as to what is taking place at Vaikam.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : The fact is that all these are published in the newspapers to secure outside sympathy.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : It necessarily follows.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : Another point that I would like to explain is the remark made by Mr. Madhava Variar that I did not take immediate action to prevent the

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

anti-*satyagraha* movement. I have an explanation for that. I was told that the anti-*satyagrahis* had also collected a number of volunteers and that if one batch was arrested another would be coming in. The policy of the police was not to arrest these people. That is why the barricades were put up. The arrest was not adopted in the case of *satyagrahis* and I did not want to adopt it in the case of anti-*satyagrahis* also. That is why I did not take immediate action.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the police reported against the *satyagrahis* ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissoner of Police*): Daily reports were made.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was it not the duty of the police to report to the District Magistrate the conduct of the anti-*satyagrahis* ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): The conduct of the *anti-satyagrahis* was also reported to the District Magistrate.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know, Sir, whether the anti-*satyagrahis* were violent or non-violent ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They also say that they are non-violent.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the report made by the police about the anti-*satyagrahis* ? The Ag. Commissioner said that a report was sent.

PRESIDENT: Reports must have been made.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the kind of report made ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): We have reported that the anti-*satyagrahis* prevent the *satyagrahis* from proceeding even along the non-prohibited roads.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What was the impression formed by the Ag. Police Commissioner about the creed of the anti-*satyagrahis*—whether they were violent or non-violent ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I have not seen the anti-*satyagrahis* myself to form an impression about them. I have got only hearsay information about them.

The other points I have already explained.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Commissioner has made any enquiry into the alleged slaked lime case ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Enquiries were made by the officers on the subject, and I have embodied the result in my speech.

PRESIDENT: Whether you have made any enquiry is the question.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): No. It was only after I had left Vaikam that the charge was made.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I am very sorry that we are now discussing about the conduct of the police on matters placed before the House which, as my lawyer friends know, would not be considered as evidence at all. When certain allegations were made against the police, the Government considered it necessary to enquire into the matter and see whether there was any foundation for the allegations. The highest magisterial officer of the District is the District Magistrate. He is a very capable and honest officer and he was asked to enquire and report.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI ((*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask whether Government have dishonest officers in the service? (*Laughter.*) Is not every officer honest?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): When we attribute certain qualities to a particular officer, it does not necessarily follow that the negative is to be implied with regard to other officers.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not know whether he can talk about a particular officer now. (*Laughter.*)

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): So far as the District Magistrate is concerned, nobody could say anything against him.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there is not a general repute associated with each officer?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Madhava Variar said that the reputation of the District Magistrate was not at all complimentary to him.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Under the orders of the Government, the District Magistrate went to the spot and made an enquiry and I assure the House that the District Magistrate made personal investigation and reported the matter which formed the basis of the Press Communiqué published by the Government.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether he has asked for evidence from even a single *satyagraha* volunteer on the matter?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Press Communiqué has published it. No *satyagraha* volunteer would make complaint or give information to him. So we do not know if they have complaints, because they are not in a mood to complain.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the report sent by the District Magistrate to the Government is legal evidence to act upon?

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes. After the enquiry, the District Magistrate was satisfied, just as the Government have been satisfied, that no such thing took place. Therefore I say we must take it that ordinarily the District Magistrate's opinion is correct.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there are many allegations against the District Magistrate himself?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The proper thing for anybody under the circumstances would have been to apply to the High Court if it was a judicial matter and if he had erred to get the mistake rectified. If it be regarded as an executive matter, the proper thing would have been to make specific allegations to Government against the District Magistrate. Somebody should come forward and say: "Here are the allegations and here are the witnesses." I do not think that any Government will be justified in making an enquiry against an officer on vague allegations.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to ask whether there is a single word in the Press Communiquè to show that the District Magistrate went to the spot.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): He was asked to enquire personally and then report. I think he did that; but how he made an enquiry and what all took place we are not in a position to know. We do not know how many witnesses he examined.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is whether there is a single word in the Press Communiquè to show that the District Magistrate went to the spot and made a personal enquiry.

PRESIDENT: That is the Government order.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government order is that he should go to the spot and make an enquiry. So that we may take it that when the Government *did* order him to go to the spot he sent up the report only after an enquiry. He did everything to satisfy himself that the allegations were unfounded.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Does Mr. Subba Aiyar know that, when the Press Communiquè is contradicted by responsible persons, it is the duty of the Government to make an enquiry?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am coming to that. If a responsible officer is convinced that no such thing took place, then the remedy is not for the persons who are inclined to complain and who want to complain to go and complain anywhere else, either in the newspapers or in any other place, but to say to the authorities: "We are assulted. Here is the evidence. Here are the police people who are guilty." Instead of that, what they did was to write to the Press,

They got articles published in the newspapers. Whether it was based on reliable or unreliable evidence, it is suggested that the Government will be justified in starting an investigation to contradict any allegations contained in any paper. I do not think it necessary to do so. If they wanted to suffer without giving information to Government, I ask why the *satyagrahis* gave information outside. Why should not they complain? If it is non-cognizable offence, they can complain to the Government. Even if it is a non-cognizable offence, is it not possible to complain to the District Magistrate saying that there are certain allegations about subordinate officers, and that a departmental enquiry is necessary? If the *satyagrahis* are not prepared to complain, it is open to my friends Messrs. Madhava Variar and Kumaran to make specific allegations to the authorities. Did they move their little finger in this direction and see that the offenders were punished? Instead of coming forward and taking advantage of this constitutional remedy that is open to any person, to stand up before the House and say that particular officer is guilty of an alleged thing is too much for any responsible member of this House to say against the responsible Head of the Department who has been discharging his duties to the best of his conscience and to the satisfaction of the Government.

Mr. Krishna Pillai did not know anything about the anti-*satyagraha* movement when he was at Vaikam; he knew it only after he left Vaikam. If he is trusted to possess ordiniary common-sense, it will not be said that he would have asked the anti-*satyagrahis* to start the movement in his presence. I think it is only due to him to take his words on trust when he said that he did not know anything about the starting of the anti-*satyagraha* movement.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): If the conduct of an officer is impugned by the public, should not another officer make an enquiry?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There must be specific allegations if the Government are to start an enquiry.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there were not specific allegations?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): They must say: "We have got such and such a witness; please, therefore, enquire."

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I have asked the Government to make an enquiry. Why should I ask the Police Commissioner? The Government can make an enquiry.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The same thing would have been done by the Government if there had been specific allegations. Somebody must come and say: "Here are the witnesses, here are the allegations, please ask some officer to make an enquiry on such and such a thing done by the police."

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I ask if public opinion as represented by the Press is a matter of no concern to any Government?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I did not say that. But to enquire into vague allegations against the police and against the report of a responsible officer who reported in a particular way after making the necessary enquiry—to start an enquiry on such a basis, there must be some specific allegations. The Government have to take it that the officer made the enquiry which they directed him to make, and have to be satisfied with the result of the enquiry. If the Government are to make another enquiry, those who want it must come to the Government and say: "Here are the witnesses which the District Magistrate did not take notice of. Here are the officers we complained about. And here is a matter in which nothing was done."

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know whether, when there is serious discrepancy between the Press Communiqué and the Ag. Police Commissioner's speech and when there are allegations insofar as there is internal evidence in the Press Communiqué as well as the Ag. Police Commissioner's speech that the police used force,—whether it is not the duty of Government to make an enquiry.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vaikil*): I do not think the member said there was any discrepancy.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I shall show that there is discrepancy.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I think if he had asked a question to Mr. Krishna Pillai when he made his speech he could have got an answer in regard to that point.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask whether the Government are in possession of sufficient facts to take action under the Departmental Enquiries Regulation?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No; no departmental officer was complained against.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PLLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Then on what basis was the enquiry started by Government?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): On public opinion. In newspapers there were such expressions as 'police hooliganism', 'police goondaism', and all those words which Mr. Madhava Variar used. There were such vague allegations in newspapers. The Government wanted to satisfy themselves whether there was in fact any foundation for these allegations; so they started an enquiry, and after the enquiry it was reported that there was no foundation at all for these allegations.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Were not allegations made against the District magistrate also?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not aware of any allegation made against the District Magistrate.

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Was it not the District Magistrate who made the enquiry the officer in charge of the arrangements at Vaikam?

PRESIDENT: I cannot hear you at all.

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I am asking whether the District Magistrate, who made the enquiry, was not the officer who was in charge of the arrangements at Vaikam.

PRESIDENT: What arrangements?

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): The arrangements for keeping the roads, etc.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No; he was not there throughout.

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Was he not residing at Vaikam?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sikar Vakil*): Might have been.

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Then why was not the enquiry made by a separate officer?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The complaint was that the police ill-treated the *satyagrahis*. The District Magistrate is the fittest person to make an enquiry in a complaint against the police.

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are not the police, under the Regulation, amenable to the orders of the District Magistrate?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, under the Police Regulation.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does it preclude him from taking judicial action?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Not at all. On the other hand, he can try cases against the police. I think, therefore, unless a serious allegation against the police is made, there is no necessity for an enquiry.

There was another thing said against the Commissioner.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up. Mr. Madhava Variar, you may reply.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I was not making any allegations personally against the Ag. Police Commissioner.

PRESIDENT: You were referring to the Ag. Police Commissioner, Mr. Krishna Pillai.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I referred to the fact that he was at Vaikam and not that he did such and such a thing. The object of my motion is to press upon the Government for an impartial enquiry into the alleged atrocities committed by the police. Mr. Subba Aiyar was saying that the Government are satisfied with the District Magistrate's report. If the people are not satisfied, have not the Government a duty to satisfy the public? Loud complaints were made against the police. So I am moving for the institution of an enquiry against the alleged acts of the police in order that the public may be convinced of the real innocence of the police. People believe that the police are not innocent.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Police Commissioner*): I have nothing more to say by way of reply.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion to a division, Mr. Madhava Variar?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Yes, I press the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—14.

1. Mr. Paul V. Daniel.
2. ,, A. Govinda Menon.
3. ,, A. Hoogewerf.
4. ,, N. Kumaran.
5. ,, T. Kumara Pillai.
6. ,, Tariatu Kunjitomman.
7. ,, M. R. Madhava Variar.
8. Mr. J. John Nidiry.
9. ,, M. N. Pillai.
10. ,, N. Padmanabha Pillai.
11. ,, Joseph Panjikaran.
12. ,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai (*Tiruvalla*).
13. ,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
14. ,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.

NOES—20.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
3. ,, K. George.
4. ,, R. Krishna Pillai.
5. ,, R. K. Krishna Pillai.
6. Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose.
7. Mr. John Mackie.
8. ,, K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
9. ,, S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
10. ,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai (*Ag. Director of Agriculture*).
11. ,, P. Paramesvaran.
12. ,, Mr. L. R. Raja Raja Varma Koiltampuran.
13. ,, M. Raja Raja Varma.
14. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
15. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
16. ,, J. Stephenson.
17. ,, V. Subba Aiyar.
18. ,, S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
19. ,, P. T. Thomas.
20. ,, A. J. Van Ross.

The motion was declared lost.

Motion 191.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, I move the following:—

191. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,880 for Assistant Superintendents' offices.

There are now three District Superintendents of Police. It would appear that, for each District Superintendent, there are also two Assistant Superintendents. One of the Assistant Superintendents is said to be a personal Assistant to the District Superintendent, while the other is for the purpose of doing field work. The whole work in a District is now being done by three officers. This work was being done at one time by one Superintendent when the Assistant Superintendents were not introduced. From the time that the Assistant Superintendent's place was created, there was much opposition against that. Even in the Budget Session in the year before last, the matter was brought forward, and then Mr. Pitt said that, on account of the great pressure of work of the District Superintendents, the Assistant Superintendents were required. But we are not yet satisfied with the nature of the work that the Assistant Superintendents are doing. The control is in the hands of the District Superintendents, and the charging of cases is in the hands of the Inspectors and the officers subordinate to them. As to why there should be a class of officers between the District Superintendent and the Inspector is not clear. After all, the difficulties are not so much as to require six officers of this grade. I, therefore, move that this amount be omitted because I think that the offices of the Assistant Superintendents are quite unnecessary and may be abolished.

PRESIDENT: You are for the abolition of all the six Assistant Superintendents?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Yes.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, this question of the abolition of the Assistant Superintendents was proposed in previous years also by the non-official members. I am sure that, if they get an opportunity to look more closely into the nature of the work that has to be done and is being done by them, they will not oppose their retention. A wrong analogy is perhaps the cause of the opposition. To take for instance, the case of the Registration Department, there is only one class of officers between the Head of the Department and the Sub-Registrars, and the question may naturally be asked if the Police Department also cannot have the same structure. I say no, for the following reasons. A District Registrar may have about 20 offices for inspection. A District Superintendent has more head stations and from 30 to 40 outposts in addition. A District Registrar cannot have more than a dozen departmental enquiries in a year, while the D. S. P. has hundreds to get through. If the Police should serve the purpose for which they are created and paid, they have to be well armed with various powers.

[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether these items of work were not done in 1088 by one single officer in the whole District,—the Assistant Superintendent who was then in charge of the District?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Then we had other officers below him to assist him.

MR. N. KUMRAN (*Nominated*): In inspection work?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): There were other officers below him for investigating purposes. Inspection alone is not their duty. They have to do investigation also. The work of investigation does not find a place in the Registration Department.

In fact almost every law that is passed out of this Council arms him with some new weapon. Now these powers are to be exercised mostly by men drawing Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 and it goes without saying that a good deal of supervision is necessary to prevent them from using these powers to oppress the people. For everything that the policeman does or does not do, there is complaint, and if there be no superior officers to enquire into them, the result will be disastrous. I am sure that none of the members will be satisfied if all these complaints are left to the Inspectors, who rarely hand up their subordinates. Satisfactory results can be expected only if an officer from outside the station staff goes and enquires with a feeling of detachment. The D. S. P. has more of office work and more of inspection than a District Registrar. He has to control a larger number of subordinates. It is not therefore possible for him to attend to all these departmental enquiries also.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is not there the same feeling between the Assistant Superintendent and the superior officer?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I believe it will be less. It gives better results in cases of enquiry.

I am sure that none of the members will be satisfied with the District Superintendent if he remains quiet when all these complaints are made against these Inspectors. The District Superintendent has to do all these items of work. How can he then find time for conducting all the departmental enquiries as well? The work of enquiring into cases does not exist in the Registration Department.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is the Police Commissioner in a position to tell us what percentage of cases taken on the register during one year, say 1099, has been directly and personally investigated by the Assistant Superintendents, as apart from other officers?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I have got statements.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai wants to get an idea of the *personal* investigation done by the Assistant Superintendents.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): All the important cases are being enquired into by the Assistant Superintendents.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What do the District Superintendents do then?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): All the grave cases are investigated by the District Superintendents.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What share does the District Superintendent bear in investigation work?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): He investigates as many cases as he can.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Who does more work?

PRESIDENT: Have you not got figures?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I shall be satisfied with a rough statement.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): The number of cases in which the District Superintendent, Kottayam, investigated was 31 in the year 1099. The Perumbavur Assistant Superintendent investigated 48 cases; the head-quarters Assistant investigated only 5 cases. He was not at the head-quarters for the whole period.

PRESIDENT: You say 48 cases on the whole were investigated by the Assistant Superintendents?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Forty-eight cases by one of the Assistant Superintendents alone. The Quilon Assistant Superintendent investigated 28 cases, the Kottayam Assistant 21 cases, and the Chengannur Assistant Superintendent 48 cases.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Are departmental enquiries also conducted by the Assistant Superintendents?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: Do these figures include departmental enquiries also?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): No. These figures do not include those.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I want to know the number of cases which have been taken by the Assistant Superintendents and completely investigated by them from start to finish.

PRESIDENT: He speaks of the cases completely investigated.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): It is not so. I can understand an Assistant Superintendent taking a case diary and making one

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

entry and then going away. I want to know the number of cases which have been investigated from start to finish.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): The number I have given relates to cases investigated from start to finish. The Asssistant will go to a place and investigate the cases completely. The routine work will be done by the subordinates.

PRESIDENT: Do these figures represent the direction work from beginning to end? That is what he asks.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): It cannot possibly be entirely in their hands. A superior officer goes to the spot and gives directions to the Inspector. The latter investigates the case as directed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are any of these cases being enquired into again by the District Superintendent ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Some of them.

PRESIDENT: Certain new points which may strike the District Superintendent may not strike the Assistant Superintendent. The investigation of police cases is not done on cut and dry lines.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): From what I have said above, it will be clear that the District Superintendent has got much more work, in fact three or four times the work that a District Registrar has got to do. The members should not think that the District Superintendent will be able to manage all these items of work that I have enumerated.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, how is the comparison between the District Superintendent and the District Registrar relevant ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I have made the comparison to show that, without the help of some other officer, the District Superintendent will not be able to cope with the work. It is for this purpose that I have compared the District Superintendent with the District Registrar.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): What is the pay of the two officers that he has compared ?

PRESIDENT: The pay of the District Registrar ranges from Rs. 175 to Rs. 225. The pay of the District Superintendent of Police goes up from Rs. 300 to Rs. 450. The salary of the one is higher than the salary of the other.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) What is the comparison between the Headmasters in the Education Department and the Assistant Superintendents of Police ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I am saying that the District Registrar has got the controlling of subordinates. The District Superintendent has also got the controlling of the subordinates and in addition he has also inspection work. In the case of the Distrct Superintendents, the number of subordinates ranges between 600 and 700. These subordinates are not like the subordinates of the Registration Department. The men in the police are armed and they require closer supervision.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Will it not be more advantageous to compare the police force here and the police force, say in Tinnevelly? It would be more advantageous if the Ag. Commissioner of Police would give figures in regard to this.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): My object in bringing in the District Registrar is to show that the District Superintendent will not be able to cope with his work if some other officer is not placed under him. That is why I said that another class of officers was also necessary. They are necessary also for keeping closer supervision over the subordinate men. These men are scattered about and armed, and they are not kept together as in the Miltary Department under a Commanding Officer. Therefore an Assistant Superintendent is necessary. A superior officer of his status should also go about and see how these subordinates are doing their work. I think it will be very dangerous to reduce the number of Assistant Superintendents. That is the point I would like to bring to the notice of the House.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): അസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാർ ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ സർക്കീട്ടുപോകാറുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): വല്ല കേസുകൾക്കും പോകാറുണ്ടു.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): കേസുകൾ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ മാത്രമേ പോകാറുള്ളോ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Not necessarily.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): Will the member be pleased to state whether these Assistant Superintendents have got any authority over the Inspectors or constables in their jurisdiction.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes. They could find out their irregularities and recommend them for puishment.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): So the office of the A. S. P. is a sort of post office, as it were, just to report to the District Superintendent about the men whom that officer has no right to punish.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They can report the irregularities of the Inspectors and recommend them for punishment.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): That means they have got no power to punish.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of detail. If they have not the power, you may invest them with powers.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): As it is, they are not of much use.

PRESIDENT: That is not relevant to the question at issue.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): There was a strong opposition to the performance of their work in the office of the District Superintendent of Police under the designation of Personal Assistant, and the arrangement was that they might be divested of that duty and given sub-division charges. That experiment is being tried in Kottayam, and if we find that will work better, we are thinking of extending that system to other Districts also. Anyhow—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there is no Personal Assistant to the District Superintendent of Police at Kottayam?

PRESIDENT: No, he is in charge of the headquarters sub-division.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Which sub-division?

Mr. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): The head-quarters sub-division. In the other districts also the Assistant Superintendents are considered to be practically sub-division officers. Anyhow, in Quilon, I know that the Assistant Superintendent is considered to be in the sub-division charge, even though I may make use of him for office work. In order that the necessity for that might be properly understood by the members, I would only invite them to come to my office and I shall convince them quite easily of it.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is that system working satisfactorily?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes. As for the necessity, I shall be able to convince the members if only they would find time to come to my office and spend one or two hours with me.

PRESIDENT: Well, the time is up.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I therefore request the member not to press the motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, the comparison made by the Ag. Commissioner, I think, was a rather unhappy one. I do not see much connection between the Registration Department and the Police Department. If he had instituted the comparison between the Excise and the Police Department it would have been more apt (*laughter*). I have been always raising my voice—at departments being top-heavy—against multiplicity of officers. The Police Department has got six

Assistant Superintendents; the Excise Department has eleven or twelve Assistant Commissioners, while there were only three some years back. I do not know where they are going to end. Now a very pertinent question was put to the Ag. Commissioner by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, with regard to the enquiry into the cases, and the figures that were given were not very satisfactory. 25, 35, and 45 were the highest figures given, and that being the case, how does it work out for a month? The percentage is only very very small.

PRESIDENT: How much time do you think would the investigation of a case of a serious nature take?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Of other cases also. Now I asked for a statement of cases, of the number of times when the Assistant Superintendents and the District Superintendents appeared before District Courts to watch important criminal trials, and the statement given tells a sad tale. The overlapping of functions of the District Superintendents and of the Assistant Superintendents, divided responsibility, and their being more or less officers of equal status, are the most important reasons why I support Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion for doing away with the Assistants. There should be responsibility. If the officers move about more frequently, go about the country and see that their subordinates are doing work properly, if they make enquiries of the people about the nature of police work that is done for the peace of the country, there will be very little of these Assistants wanted. Ours is more or less a peaceful country. We can go from Cape Comorin to Parur without any trouble. Even a woman can travel singly without being molested, and I think such a number of high-paid police officers are not necessary in the present condition of the country. I will just give an instance of multiplicity of officers, of divided authority, and so on; for example in the Training College—

PRESIDENT: Your comparison is irrelevant. We are not dealing with the Training College now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): No, Sir. In the Training College one officer is doing work much better probably than three officers.

PRESIDENT: There may be other reasons.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When there is divided responsibility, the work, as a rule, deteriorates. When there is responsibility, the work as a rule is done very much better. One may very well remember the old saying 'too many cooks spoil the broth' and 'what is everybody's business is nobody's business.' One man has to do his work properly; for that, he must be highly paid and he alone must be responsible for his work. Take, for example, Vaikam now. The District Superintendent puts the blame upon the Assistant Superintendent, who in turn blames the Inspector ,and so on and so forth. If the District Superintendent himself was made responsible, there would be greater responsibility. For these several reasons, I am very glad to support Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I have also very great pleasure in supporting the motion of Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. The inutility of the Assistant Superintendents of Police was sufficiently discussed on a prior occasion in this House. Then it was promised by the then Commissioner of Police that he would make an experiment to utilise the services of the Assistant Superintendents in the outlying parts of the District. That experiment has been attempted at Kottayam, as I gather from the present Ag. Commissioner, with what results, he has not told us. Now, the main work to be turned out by the Assistant Superintendents of Police was described before the House. That work is supervising, checking and controlling the forces scattered throughout the District. I have not seen any other department which stands in need of so much controlling and supervision as regards its rank and file. The Police Department seems to start with a suspicion against the constabulary, so much so that, at the very start, the Government and the head of the Department seem to think that the constables are of the *suspect* variety. Necessarily, to watch the conduct of these people, and to see that they do not misbehave, the Assistant Superintendents of Police have been appointed. As pointed out, that is the main work that has fallen to the share of these people. Yet, we have been hearing in this House, in connection with the previous motion, from members of this House, who, whatever Mr. Subba Aiyar might say, cannot be entirely put down as 'irresponsible' people, an amount of complaint in connection with the situation at Vaikam. An Assistant Superintendent was at the spot and these complaints had their origin in a station particularly under the very nose of the Assistant Superintendent of Police. What difference, I ask, did it make, whether the Assistant Superintendent was at the spot or not. If this is the sort of stuff that is promoted as Assistant Superintendents, if this is the sort of people that are appointed to supervise the work of police constables, what is the use of asking these people to supervise the proceedings of the ordinary policemen? In that particular quarter, I am pointing out to the House, Sir, the high expectations that were entertained of the Assistant Superintendents have been practically falsified.

Then, in the matter of investigation of offences, my friend, the Ag. Commissioner of Police, I find, is not in a position to state how many cases have been handled by the Assistant Superintendents of Police exclusive of the co-operation of other officers investigating crimes. A supervising officer goes to a particular Station, makes certain entries and extracts a few entries himself, and pretends that he has also been investigating cases. If that sort of patch work and fragmentary investigation by an officer is allowed to the credit of the Assistant Superintendents of Police, there is something to be said in their favour. If the credit for the number of cases investigated by him is based upon such figures, it is extremely difficult to come to any conclusion as to the real work done by the Assistant Superintendent of Police. These are the two things for which the Police Department have been trying to get the Assistant

Superintendents, and judging by experience, their appointment, we are sorry to observe, has proved extremely unsatisfactory and a burden to the tax-payer. And probably, in view of the possible reduction of vexation to the population, these people may be got rid of. On a prior occasion I mooted the question, and my friend Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman in company with Fr. Vettikkappalli was of opinion that there was something to be gained by the appointment. I am glad to hear Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman veering to-day to my old view and supporting my old position that the Assistant Superintendents are not, after all, so indispensable as has been pointed out in the House on a prior occasion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I beg to support the motion. Explanations from the head of the Police Department on this question will not have any effect on our ways of thinking because we have been injected with these explanations and we have accepted those injections with strict impartiality from the hands both of a European and an Indian. The Assistant Superintendents are said to be indispensable; but so far as police work is concerned, we, laymen, are able to see that the Assistant Superintendent is nothing more than an aid-de-camp to the District Superintendent of Police. I know instances—definite instances—of these two officers pulling against each other. Of course, pulling against each other is not the monopoly of the Police Department. I know a case in which a medical man who was treating a relation of mine advised me to purchase medicine from a chemist's shop, especially because, he said, there were cliques in the hospital and he would not vouch that the medicine actually given to him was the medicine prescribed. The Acting Commissioner of Police instituted an original comparison between the work of the District Superintendent and the District Registrar. It puts me in mind of an equally glorious comparison instituted by Shakespeare—the comparison between Monmouth and Macedon. Both began with M, there was a river in both places and there were salmon in both. I am sorry that the Acting Commissioner of Police should have compared the District Superintendents to the District Registrars. I am referring to the circumstances to support the position that the District Magistrates may be given some kind of control over the District Superintendents because the District Superintendent admittedly does not compare his work with the District Magistrate. And it puts me in mind of the events which happened at the time of the students' strike, and from what transpired in the college compound, it was reported that, because the Police Commissioner was present on the spot, the District Magistrate was not able to take sufficient action. Now the powers of the District Magistrate and the Police Commissioner—both of them are definite according to statute. It is to some extent due to the estimation of the public, because, over and above the Peishkar, there is the Revenue Commissioner so that the Peishkar is not the great officer that he was in olden times. My point is that even if the District Magistrate has got something to do with the work of co-ordinating the work of the Police in his District, the Police Commissioner who is a much higher officer will still

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

be able to have a kind of facility to give instructions even to the District Magistrate on certain matters, to consult him freely, and to take his advice. The Assistant Superintendents in olden days were big officers who used to travel in big *kettuvallams*—more or less in *kattamarans*—boats which go only two miles per hour at the most, and they used to carry along with them—I have seen with my own eyes—and the Assistant Superintendent was a relation of mine—provisions for several days. That was in those days when locomotion was difficult, when there was no sufficient number of roads. But these are the days of motor cars and, as Mr. Hoogewerf said, a man can travel from one end of Travancore to the other in a few hours. When that is the case, why perpetuate these Assistant Superintendents of Police? Now they exist as a kind of target. The District Superintendents shirk their responsibility and thereby put the blame on the heads of Assistant Superintendents, who in turn put the blame on the former. After all, the pay of the District Superintendent is Rs. 250 or 300 and the pay of the Assistant Superintendent is about Rs. 200 or so, and when such is the case what is the kind of control that the one is able to exercise over the other? And this is a question on which practically this side of the House is united. Hitherto, nothing has passed to convince us that we are in the wrong. On the other hand, the explanation of the Acting Commissioner of Police has only convinced me that we are still in the right. For these reasons, I accord my full support to the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to support the motion of Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. Similar motions were tabled at the Budget Session of the last two years and they were defeated. I wish that this time at least the motion will be carried or the Government will be pleased to effect a compromise by at least abolishing three Assistant Superintendents who work as personal assistants or who have been intended to work as personal assistants to the District Superintendents. In regard to the necessity for retaining all the six Assistant Superintendents, it has been stated by Mr. Krishna Pillai, as has already been stated by Mr. Pitt during the two previous years, that it is essential that there should be intermediary officers between the Commissioner of Police and the Inspector, who would supervise and control the police work. It was also stated that it was the aim of the Commissioner to bring down the number of such intermediary officers as far as possible and that they had now fixed it at six. The fact has to be noted that these six Assistant Superintendents are not only intermediary officers between the Police Commissioner and the Inspector but they happen to be intermediary officers between District Superintendent and the Inspector of Police. The District Superintendent of Police has, besides his sub-division work, a personal assistant to look to his office work. The object with which the personal assistants were created was to aid the District Superintendent in his office work; and then the other Assistant Superintendents were put in charge of mofussil

sub-divisions. It was pointed out, on this side of the House then, that there would necessarily be overlapping of functions and also of shirking of responsibility and consequent loss in efficiency. Sir, the work of the superior grade of the police during the last two years must in my humble opinion have confirmed our view that it has not tended towards the promotion of efficiency in the Police Department or their usefulness for that matter. Very much depends upon the character and ability of the police officers, especially in the higher grades of the service. As has already been remarked, persons who have been appointed as Assistant Superintendents were not particularly selected, being qualified for holding such responsible posts by educational attainments or social status. It has been stated from time to time by the Government that educational qualifications and social status will certainly be taken into consideration for preferment, especially in the Police Department. I am sorry to state that, as a rule, that principle has not been kept in view. And consequently the police officers of the superior grade have suffered considerably in efficiency and also in usefulness to the people. That being the case, irregularities and thefts that occur in important centres, in towns and in municipal areas are being reported from day to day to be on the increase; and the number of undetected cases, as I know, is also on the increase. No satisfaction is given to the people in regard to such elementary duties of the police, and this in spite of the fact that the country has been divided into several sub-divisions under Assistant Superintendents and District Superintendents. We have not been any the better.

The investigation work, it has been stated, is done by the Assistant Superintendents personally. Out of 2,479 cases taken up by the police in 1098—I have not got the figures for 1099—the Ag. Commissioner has told us that the Assistant Superintendents in the head-quarters have investigated only 5 cases, while elsewhere they did 48, 35, 31 and so on. At any rate the figures shown above do not represent any decent proportion to the total number of cases. As such they do not appear to devote sufficient attention to investigation work. They are not required for office work; they are not doing any responsible work in their own sub-divisions. I would therefore strongly press for the reduction of these Assistant Superintendents and would request that the Government be pleased to dispense with at least those personal Assistants who are now doing or who are intended to do duty with the District Superintendents in the same sub-division.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-30 P. M. and re assembled at 3-14 P. M.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I had tabled a similar motion in 1097 at the time of the budget debate. I moved the same motion and tried to show that the creation of the Assistant Superintendent was unnecessary. Mr. Pitt insisted upon having all the six officers; and as the House will remember my motion was rejected by a narrow majority.

In order to clearly understand the position, I think it desirable to refer to the past history of the question. The Department was

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

re-organised in 1088. Till then, there were only three Assistant Superintendents and a Superintendent of Police who controlled the whole Department. The whole control and inspection of the police force was done by these four officers. The taluk Inspectors with the assistance of station house officers carried on the investigation and detection of crimes and conducted the prosecutions. These taluk Inspectors were never inspecting officers. In the re-organisation of 1088, 22 Circle Inspectors were created to supervise the work of the Sub-Inspectors who were newly created to be in charge of the stations. The whole State was subsequently divided into five Districts. The Salaries Committee in 1096 recommended, as a measure of retrenchment, the abolition of all the circles and the reduction of the number of Districts from five to three, and also suggested the creation of two Assistant Superintendents in the place of the two District Superintendents who were to be removed according to their recommendation. The Commissioner of Police thought that these changes were too drastic and would lower the standard of efficiency of the police force. Mr. Pitt asked for six Assistant Superintendents and the Government readily fell in with his proposals. This in brief is how we happen to have from 1098 three officers to supervise and inspect the police work in a District, while before 1088 we had only one Assistant Superintendent for the same area. It is nobody's case that work has increased by 300 per cent. in each District since 1088. Further each District was again divided into a headquarter sub-division and a mofussil sub-division, the latter being in the charge of one Assistant Superintendent and the former directly in the charge of the District Superintendent. Thus not only was the old District subdivided into two but the District Superintendent was given another Assistant Superintendent to help him in the shape of a personal assistant. His duty consisted in helping him in his office work. While we were crying ourselves hoarse over the question of Government appointing personal assistants to most heads of departments, we have here the instance, for the first time no doubt, of District officers being furnished with personal assistants. This position is thoroughly incongruous and indefensible. One can understand the position when the Commissioner of Police or the Director of Public Instruction who is controlling an army of officers asks for a personal assistant. Imagine on the other hand a District Superintendent directly in charge of the Police work of four or five taluks and having an attenuated form of supervision over a mofussil sub-division standing in need of the help of a personal assistant drawing a salary of Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 to get through the papers in his office consisting of ten or twelve clerks.

Owing to this sub-division in the Districts, the inspection and supervision has become lax and inefficient. The inspection of an Assistant Superintendent for obvious reasons cannot be so thorough or efficient as that of a District Superintendent of Police; and the latter having two highly paid assistants to help him will naturally leave the inspection

work in the hands of his Assistants. We have this significant sentence in Mr. Pitt's Administration Report for 1098—the year in which the new system wat introduced:—

"I was on circuit for 137 days against 119 in the previous year. I inspected 37 stations, 2 out-posts, 3 District Offices and the Headquarters Office. The District Superintendents of Trivandrum and Kottayam visited all the stations and out-posts in their jurisdiction, and the District Superintendent, Quilon, visited all the stations and out-posts except those in the High Ranges which were inspected by his Personal Assistant."

Again, I need not say that the use of the words "visited" and "inspected", the former being applied to the work of the District Superintendent, is significant. I do not believe that it was necessitated in order to avoid any monotony in style.

Then again, there is the duality of control exercised by the District Superintendent of Police and the Assistant Superintendent over the same men and officers. If the District Superintendent of Police has an effective control and supervision, it cannot but lead to friction. If there is no friction, the chances are that the District Superintendent of Police is permitting his Assistant in the mofussil sub-division to carry on the work according to his own light. There can be no doubt that the creation of this new set of officers does not conduce to efficiency in police work, but in fact it only hampers it.

Whether this re-organisation has been advantageous to the country or not could be seen from the work that has been turned out in the year 1098. It will be seen from the report of the administration of the Department that the percentage of detection and recovery of stolen property has very much decreased. Mr. Pitt makes an attempt to explain it away by saying that it is due to the reduction of the staff, particularly of the superior staff. I would rather suggest that it is mainly due to the introduction of a time-scale in the case of Inspectors in the Department. In the case of officers from whom work has to be extracted, I think it is inadvisable to have a time-scale. If an officer finds himself in a particular place, it is enough if he manages for a short period and then by the efflux of time he is entitled to draw his increased pay. On the other hand, the old system was that, unless he turned out proper work, he would not get his promotion and he would not get his increment also. I should think that this explanation did not occur to Mr. Pitt and I think that Mr. Pitt would agree that that is the proper explanation for the deficiency or the inefficiency that was discovered by him in the work of the police force in 1098.

I would also suggest that the necessity for a personal assistant in the headquarters sub-division may be obviated by the removal of a large establishment from the office of the District Superintendent of Police. Before 1098 the Assistant Superintendent of Police had only two or three clerks in his establishment. I believe they were policemen, head constables and some others who were asked to do clerical work. Now we have got three Districts, and the duplication, I would even say the triplication, of the work that is being done in the office of the Commissioner of Police.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

Most of these clerks may be removed from the office of the District Superintendent of Police. There will be no necessity for a personal assistant being employed to help the District Suprintendent of Police in his official work. On these grounds, I support the motion brought forward by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. അസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാർ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരുടേയും കാൺസ്റ്റബിൾമാരുടേയും നടത്തയെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി കഴിഞ്ഞവർഷം വാദം ഉണ്ടായപ്പോൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാർ വേണമെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടത്. ഇതിൽ കമ്മീഷണരുടേയും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻേറയും ഉദ്ദേശം നല്ലതാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ല. ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുടേയും മററും നടത്തയെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് സൂപ്രണ്ടിനോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ദൂരെയിരിക്കുന്ന കമ്മീഷണർക്കോ വളരെ പ്രയാസമുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാർ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതു നല്ലതാണെന്നു തോന്നാം. എന്നാൽ അനുഭവത്തിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ ഈ ഏർപ്പാടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗുണകരമല്ലെന്നു മനസ്സിലായിരിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാർ വേണ്ടെന്നു ഞാനിപ്പോൾ പറയുന്നത് രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് രജിസ്ട്രാർമാരും മററും ഉള്ളതുപോലെ പോലീസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും അസിസ്റ്റൻറുകമ്മീഷണർമാർ വേണമെന്നു ചിലർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർക്കു ജനങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ പറയത്തക്ക അധികാരമൊന്നുമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് അതിൽക്കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉണ്ടായാൽ പണച്ചിലവു വരുമെന്നല്ലാതെ മററു ദോഷമൊന്നും ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല.

ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു പോലീസ്സുകമ്മീഷണരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തേയും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുടേയോ കാൺസ്റ്റബിൾമാരുടേയോ മേൽ വേണ്ടുംവണ്ണം പതിയാതെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെ ഏറെക്കുറെ ശരിവച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനെ ഇടവരും. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇതുകൊണ്ടു വളരെ ഉപദ്രവങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകാം. എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒന്നു സംഭവിച്ചാൽ കമ്മീഷണർ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് സൂപ്രണ്ടിനോടും ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് സൂപ്രണ്ട് അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടിനോടും അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ട് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറോടും സമാധാനം ചോദിക്കും. കീഴ്ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സമാധാനങ്ങ

ളെ തീരെ ഗണിക്കാതെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ പ്രവൎത്തിക്കയെന്നുള്ളതും വിഷമമാണ്. എന്നാൽ കീഴിലുള്ളവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ അനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവൎത്തിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഫലം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പലപ്പോഴും ദോഷകരമായിട്ടേ അവസാനിക്കയുള്ളു. ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന താലൂക്കിലേയും അയൽ താലൂക്കുകളിലേയും ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന് ഈ ഏർപ്പാട് ദോഷകരമാണെന്നാണ് അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ച് അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് സൂപ്രണ്ടുദ്യോഗം നിൎത്തിക്കളയണ്ടതാണെന്നു പറയുന്നത്.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): I have been always urging upon this House the abolition of the post of Assistant Superintendents. The dual control now exercised by these officers over the Inspectors of Police does not at all contribute to efficiency of work. The powers and duties of the Assistant Superintendents are not well defined and thereby business always suffers. The Assistant Superintendents have no independent authority. They simply serve as intermediary officers for the transmission of some papers from the Inspectors to the District Superintendents and *vice versa*. The investigation of cases by these officers is only formal. The investigation of cases may safely be left in the hands of the Inspectors of Police; and in cases of grave offences, the District Superintendents might also make personal investigation. On a careful examination of the working of the Department one would find that the office is superfluous and that neither the Department nor the public derive any real benefit from it. With the saving effected by the abolition of this post, the constables may be given an increase of pay, and thus we may be able to remove one cause of the commonly alleged corruption among them.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Sir, last year when the question of abolishing this post of Assistant Superintendents came up before this House, I said that they are a set of very useful officers, especially in the country parts where people cannot have easy access to the District Superintendent of Police. The experience of last year has only confirmed me in my opinion. So I have to oppose the motion. But, in doing so, I would repeat the suggestion I made last year—namely that the Police Commissioner should make these officers more useful by giving them all the sub-division charges and not keep three of them attached to the District Superintendents. I am glad to hear that such an experiment has been already started in the Kottayam Division. Some of the charges brought against the Assistant Superintendents, for instance those made by my friend Mr. Kunjitomman, I believe, are due to the unsatisfactory way some of the present incumbents are doing their duty and cannot be attributed to the system. I think, if the Police Commissioner would be a little more vigilant and not place implicit confidence in his subordinates in every thing, matters would improve and these Assistant Superintendents would be really a set of useful officers, especially in country parts.

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): I rise to support the motion, though in doing so I mean to go against the representative of my own taluk, *i. e.*, Kunnatnad taluk. From what has been said here by my friends, one thing at least is clear, that these six officers do not serve the purpose for which they were appointed at the beginning. I do not wish to say anything more upon that point.

I would urge on your attention, Sir, the desirability of utilising the money thus saved for increasing the pay of the constables. Of course, we are prevented from bringing in a motion for an increase of expenditure and so this is the only way just to bring this matter before the Government. Whatever may be the kind of supervision, whatever may be the quality or character of those who are engaged in supervising the work, from the very nature of the instruments with which they have now to deal, there is absolutely no chance of getting proper work done. The lowest rank of the constables gets now Rs. 9 only and the next higher gets Rs. 10. In these days, at least Rs. 9 are required for two meals a day; and unless the Government are prepared to appoint only bachelors as policemen there will be corruption and none of these constables is to blame for being corrupt. When they are corrupt, of course, the immediate superiors also are liable to be corrupt, because, whatever may be the character or expediency of the superior officer, so long as these people are in their present position, they cannot get proper work done by them. What I urge on the Government is the desirability of increasing their pay at least by Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 In British India, more than Rs. 16 are given to them. That may not be a standard here. But, in the present circumstances, when almost everywhere a sum of Rs. 9 is needed to get two meals a day, certain as anything it is desirable that their pay should be increased by an appreciable sum.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): There has been much talk about the Assistant Superintendent of Police in this House and elsewhere. One complaint is that he is only the old Circle Officer put in a different garb. Another complaint is about the duality of the work between the District Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent. It cannot be denied that there is necessity for a sufficient number of superior police officers at the present time. But the main difference of opinion seems to be as to the particular manner in which they are classified or arranged. As a member of the Salaries Committee, my complaint is that the unanimous recommendation of that body was not heeded by the Government. Their recommendation was to have three District Superintendents in the three important districts and two Assistant Superintendents with independent powers, more or less, in less important districts. If that recommendation had been tried, my submission is that much of the complaint which we now hear would not have arisen. So, in view of these facts, I would recommend to this House, that instead of having 6 Assistant Superintendents and 3 District Superintendents, we may have either, as recommended

by the Salaries Committee, 3 District Superintendents and 2 Assistant Superintendents who are independent of the District Superintendents, or we may have 5 District Superintendents independent of each other. I am of opinion that such an arrangement would be very satisfactory.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, it would be of interest to know the number of police officers employed in British India in relation to an equal area and population. I daresay the number must be certainly less than what we have got in Travancore. Travancore is comparatively a small State compared to all the districts in the Madras Presidency, and it also contains a population which is particularly noted for its peaceful and law-abiding nature. The necessity for having so many Assistant Superintendents of Police is not therefore very clear to me. There is also, as has been pointed out, overlapping of work between the District Superintendent of Police and the Assistant Superintendent of Police. We have not had any remarkable cases of robbery or house-breaking in Travancore, at least not to the extent in which such crimes are found to be committed in British India. Travancore has not yet produced a man like Jambulingam or a law-breaker who is anything like him.

PRESIDENT: Are you sorry for it?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): For all these reasons, I think I would do well to support Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion, if a reduction in the number of Assistant Superintendents of Police can possibly be effected.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Everything that can possibly be said on the subject has been exhausted by the speakers on this side of the House. From Mr. Nidiry we understand that even the Salaries Committee did not recommend more than two Assistant Superintendents to work independently of the three District Superintendents of Police. It is therefore clear that even a body who investigated the whole matter could not make up their mind to recommend more than two Assistant Superintendents of Police. The reasons given by the members from this side of the House, I think, are quite sufficient to convince even the Ag. Commissioner of Police of the necessity of abolishing the Assistant Superintendents of Police altogether. He was not able to convince us of the necessity of retaining these officers any longer. He has given us some figures showing the nature of the investigation work done by the Assistant Superintendents, and I cannot say that the amount of work done by them in investigating cases is sufficient to justify their retention any longer. Under these circumstances, I would press my motion to a division.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Some criticisms have been made about the comparison that I instituted between the District Registrar and the District Superintendent of Police.

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I only wanted to select a class of officers with similar jurisdiction and compare the work of the two sets of officers. If Mr. Velu Pillai wants to compare the work of the District Superintendents of Police with that of the District Magistrates, I have no objection to do so. But he should remember that the District Magistrates have got Assistants. Some others suggested the advisability of instituting a comparison with the Excise Department saying that there is only one class of officers between the head of the Department and the Inspector in that Department. It is true; but there, the number of officers is very much greater.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Have the District Magistrates got assistants?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They have got First Class Magistrates under them.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): They are not their assistants. They are a different set of officers altogether.

PRESIDENT: The District Magistrates have Division Assistants.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): In the Excise Department there are 11 officers. If the House is of opinion that the whole State should be divided into 11 separate districts and that one officer should be posted in charge of each district, I have no objection to do that. But, to keep the jurisdiction as it is and to place one officer in charge and ask him to do all his present multifarious work, I am afraid, would be an impossible task. That is the point I would like to urge.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I have a word of personal explanation to offer. First Class Magistrates are only subordinate to the District Magistrates and are not their assistants.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): What I say is that between the District Superintendents of Police and the Inspectors there should be a class of officers whom the District Superintendents of Police should be able to depute for work.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether the work has increased, and, if so, in what proportion, from 1088 to 1099?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): With the increase of civilisation, the work has been increasing in every direction and we are finding it impossible to cope with the complaints that we are receiving in regard to the working of every one of the department. When a District Superintendent of Police is engaged in a particluar direction, his attention is called in half a dozen other directions and it will be impossible for him to attend to all these duties himself.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Who was in charge of the Vaikam arrangement?

PRESIDENT: Why should anybody be in charge?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Was it the A. S. P. or the D. S. P.?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): There was an Assistant Superintendent of Police.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know his name?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar.

PRESIDENT: How does it arise out of this?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): He was saying that A. S. P. had no independent charge.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*: There are A. S. P's. and D. S. P's. who have independent charge.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I have a word of personal explanation. I mentioned the Excise Department only because the Police and the Excise Departments are more or less alike in the matter of detection. That is all. I want to reduce the eleven Assistant Excise Commissioners in that department also to three.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Another gentleman suggested that crime has increased and detective work has decreased; but at the same time he proposes the abolition of Assistant Superintendents of Police. I do not understand how he is going to improve the detective work and also bring about a decrease in crime by the abolition of Assistant Superintendents of Police.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Do the Assistant Superintendents of Police commit crime? (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): That question cannot be answered.

Then another remark made is about the creation of Assistant Superintendents of Police. I am afraid that there has been a lot of misunderstanding regarding the creation of Assistant Superintendents of Police. In the Quilon District, there were four Circle Inspectors in the past. We converted two circles into one and put one officer there. So it is not exactly a case of creation but only one of substitution and reduction. Where there were two Circle Inspectors we have got one officer now, and the pay of this one officer is not equal to the pay of the two Circle Inspectors. It is much less.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are we then to understand that the Circles were reduced in number?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes, it is so. Two circles were put together and one officer put in charge of that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Would the District Superintendent of Police be able to exercise better control over the Circle Inspector or over the Assistant Superintendent of Police?

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I think that Assistant Superintendents of Police serve the purpose better than the class of Circle Inspectors, for various reasons.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Were they not themselves Circle Inspectors? Simply because you gave them a different name, have they improved in efficiency?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes, they have improved.

PRESIDENT: The Peishkar has been promoted from the Tahsildar.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): They have only been given a better name.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Then there seems to be much of opposition about the retention of some of these officers as personal assistants. What I would bring to the notice of the House is that these officers are being only occasionally asked to do office work. Mainly, their duties are outside their office. If the House is very much against their retention in office, I have no objection to send them all away. Only when they are at headquarters and when the District Superintendent of Police is in camp, will they be asked to attend to routine work in the District office. Even this may be dispensed with, and all these officers may be given charge of sub-divisions. I have no objection to do that if the House persists in that course. As a matter of fact, the major portion of their work lies outside the office. It is only occasionally that they are asked to do office work. For instance I may give some details. When the District Superintendent of Police goes out in camp, a number of orders about leave, punishment, etc. are passed, and all these orders have to be posted up in various registers. In one week the entries accumulate to such an extent that, by the time the District Superintendent of Police returns, he will have to spend two or three hours in taking up each paper and verifying the entry and initialling it. Sometimes some of the personal assistants may be able to do all these things. It is to avoid the D. S. P. wasting two or three hours in such work that the A. S. P. is made use of in the office, and if the House has got any objection to the A. S. P's being utilised for such purpose, for my own part I have no objection to giving direct charge to these A. S. P's. As a matter of fact, they are even now in direct charge. They need not be called personal assistants, they may be called sub-divisional officers.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Is it possible to reduce the number then?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): We have reduced the number to the irreducible minimum. Where there were four circles, we have got only two now. We have amalgamated two circles into one.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Was not the circle system itself a recent one?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes, but there were 39 officers to supervise the work of the investigating officers before the introduction of the Circle system.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Taluk Inspectors?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes, the taluk Inspectors were not investigating officers. The old station house officers were the investigating officers. Above them there were Inspectors, and above the Inspectors there were Assistant Superintendents of Police. Then there is another thing about the A. S. P's. When the old A. S. P's existed, all the audit work was being done in the headquarters. The store work was also done at the headquarters office. Now, it is all done in the District offices. Therefore, it is not possible to compare the amount of work done in the office of the Assistant Superintendents of Police of old with the work done now in the office of the District Superintendents of Police.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Can we not shift this work back to the office of the Commissioner of Police?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): It is not advisable. It is because centralisation was found to be inconvenient that the work was decentralised. The tendency is to go the other way, I am afraid.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): But it is too costly.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): The number of clerks in the headquarters office will have to be considerably increased, if all this work is done there. Again, in drawing and distributing pay there will be a great deal of work in the central office. Formerly the pay of a constable in the Devicolam District had to be drawn in the headquarters office and sent up there.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That is a work to be done in the account branch.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for the Demand is already over.

MR R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): As regards promotion, I would give the members all the information that they want. Even now, increments are stopped whenever an Inspector does not turn out good work. Increments are *not* given automatically. If the work of a particular Inspector is found to be bad, we stop his increment. This we are able to do now much more easily than before. That is as regards the time scale.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): What reply has the Ag. Commissioner of Police to give to the observation of some of the members that the educational qualifications of these A. S. P's. are not up to the mark?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): That is most unfortunate. Some of the men who are in the forefront happen to be without educational qualifications. Of course, all these men were there, and we could not send them away. For the time being

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

they are there, and, after some time when men with educational qualification come in, much of the criticisms against the A. S. P's. in this matter will be removed.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are these people without educational qualifications able to do efficient police work?

MR. R. K KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I should think they are doing efficient police work. We have just introduced the system and we have not given it a fair trial. So my request is that the House should not interfere and stop the thing at this stage and that we should be given some more time to see if the system will not work well.

Under these circumstances, I request Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai not to press the motion just now but to give some more time for the trial of the system.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 23 voting *for* and 18 *against*.

Motions 199 to 202.

The time allotted for the Demand having expired, the following motions lapsed:—

MR. N. KUMARAN:

192. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,880 for Assistant Superintendents' offices by Rs. 100.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

193. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,880 for Assistant Superintendents' offices by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

194. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,230 for pay of establishment paid from contingencies by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

195. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for Reserve by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

196. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,66,074 for District Police by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

197. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,66,074 for District Police by Rs. 100.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

198. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,66,074 for District Police by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

199. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·06 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 24,500.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

200. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·06 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

201. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·06 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 100.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI:

202. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·06 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for this Demand being over, I put the demand to the vote of the Council.

The demand for Rs. 5·06 lakhs *minus* Rs. 2,880 under Demand XI—Police, was then put to the vote of the House and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XII—EDUCATION.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 33.67 lakhs under Demand XII—Education.

Motion 203

The following motion was not made:

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*):

203. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,600 for travelling allowances by Rs. 100.

Motion 204.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I beg to move:

204. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,138 under Direction by Rs. 100.

My object in making this motion is to enable the House to consider certain questions connected with the educational policy of the State, I happened to be present, Sir, at a meeting held in the College hall several years back, at which a speech was made by the then British Resident Mr. Carr, advocating the appointment of a Director of Public Instruction; and Sir P. Rajagopalachariar who was Dewan took up the idea in all seriousness and made the appointment. Dr. Mitchell, an eminent educationist, was the first Director. From that time we have had Directors. Three out of the four Directors have been men of Science, and one a man of letters. The establishment of a Philosophy chair has been advocated by the non-officials both in the Assembly and in the Council. I have been taking interest in the matter for the last ten or twelve years and the Government accepted my suggestion with regard to the re-establishment of the philosophy chair which was cruelly abolished at the time of Dr. Mitchell. The philosophy chair was always very popular in His Highness the Maha Raja's College. We have had eminent Professors in philosophy and there have been distinguished students who have shed lustre to the college and the country. Two or three names I may mention to the House. They are those of the late Mr. Thanu Pillai, Professor Sundaram Pillai and Mr. Muthukumaraswami Pillai. That popular chair which has gone with to these men

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

should not have been abolished. The curious fact about it is that, in spite of the promises that Government have made that they would reconsider the question when the Vanchiyur School was opened and when the classes of the High School accommodated in the College were removed to the Vanchiyur School, when I asked a question in this Council, an attempt was made to modify the previous answer although there was sufficient committal in the previous answer, and it was explained that there was no committal. It is philosophy, Sir, that connects other departments of knowledge. It is philosophy that gives coherence to the vaunted knowledge of the scientists. Without philosophy, everything else is incoherent. There will be no system without philosophy. In all civilised countries we find that philosophy is being taught with earnestness. The people of India have justly got a reputation for having taken interest in philosophy from time im memorial; and that such people should be asked not to learn philosophy is certainly a cruel decree of fate.

The Sanskrit Chair is another topic on which I should say a few words. We have heard so much about national regeneration. We have heard a good deal about spiritual ideas and we find that the great Indian poet Dr. Rabindranath Tagore is respected throughout the world, because he is the apostle of Indian culture.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I raise a point of order? The motion relates to a cut of Rs. 100 from the allotment for Direction. I doubt whether the philosophy chair, the Sanskrit chair and Dr. Rabindranath Tagore have anything to do with direction proper. The motion is not for reduction from the total allotment for education.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Velu Pillai is referring to all these as matters that should guide the Director of Public Instruction in regard to the policy to be adopted by him in the direction of the department.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I once again feel myself on *terra firma* in the light of the observations from the chair although the Law Member tried to shake me.

The great Indian poet is honored, I would once more say, as the apostle of Indian culture. Now, when it is recognised by everybody that all this is due to Sanskrit education and to the existence of monumental works in Sanskrit, that His Highness the Maha Raja's College at Trivandrum 'which is maintained by an illustrious dynasty of Indian rulers' should not have the good fortune to maintain a Sanskrit chair is a very sad commentary on the system of education that we are now having. The Physics Professor, the Chemistry Professor, the English Professor, the History Professor—all these people are given sufficient status. But take the case of Sanskrit. It is being taught for several years past by one who would be given only Rs. 250. Malayalam is also being taught by one who would not be given more than Rs. 250. Now I am not able to understand this stepmotherly attitude towards Indian

culture, which it is the earnest endeavour of all educationists to foster; and if Travancore does not encourage Sanskrit literature, which is the Indian State that is going to do it?

The third topic is manual training and industrial education. It is for that specific purpose that the place of the Director of Public Instruction was created. At that time there was no other Director. There was neither the Director of Industries nor the Director of Agriculture. It was considered the legitimate function of the Director of Public Instruction to take steps for the industrial regeneration of the country. Now the Education Department professes to have only a subsidiary interest in industrial education. All the same, they appear to recognise the necessity for manual training. There is a costly instructor for manual training attached to the Model School and batches of men have been trained in manual training. But what is the result? The Director of Public Instruction will, I daresay, be able to enlighten the Council as to the success which has been accomplished by the students who were put into the way of manual training. Has he collected any statistics? Has he pursued any enquiry? When I went to the Training College in connection with the University Committee, logs of timber—rich timber, blackwood and teak—were being sawn down for the use of the Manual Training Instructor. When so much money is spent, we should certainly have a commensurate advantage and there is nothing like facts, nothing like figures, which would convince us. Therefore the Director of Public Instruction ought to tell us how many people have benefited by manual training and how far any of these students so trained have been able to earn an honest living by what they have learnt.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will Mr. Velu Pillai be kind enough to tell us whether he saw any of the furniture made by these manual training students?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I saw a lot of furniture there, but I do not know whether it was made by the manual training students. It is for the Director to say that. I have not investigated that question.

Then there is the question of the circuit work of the Director of Public Instruction.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the time?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The Director has an Office Assistant. These are days of personal assistants. Although the gentleman is capable of doing very good work outside the doors of his office, he is retained in the office in order to give some kind of advice in executive matters to the Director of Public Instruction and he is also given the authority to dispose of routine matters. That must certainly enable the Director of Public Instruction to travel about the country. Travelling, in spite of all manner of facilities for travelling that we are now having, is slowly dwindling, so far as the Director of Public Instruction is concerned. Dr. Mitchell

[Mr. John Mackie.]

did some travelling work. Dr. Bishop did less. Mr. Hodgson did a little less still, and I fear the present Director has beat the past record. There is no good if the Director of Public Instruction remains in the office like a Secretary, in his office chair, dealing with heavy files alone. He must move about the country. He must understand the educational needs of the country. He must realise the particular direction in which reform is necessary. He must move, not in feet or in inches, but in miles of good reform. I do not know if that is being done. I am only speaking about the principle. I do not concern myself with the person of the Director of Public Instruction.

These matters require very close scrutiny. The amount of money Mr. Stephenson has asked for is more than the amount asked by a number of other departments put together. It is therefore incumbent upon the Director of Public Instruction to satisfy us that the best that could be done is being done by the Department and that we are getting adequate advantage for the money we expend on the department. The matter has been pressed upon the attention of Government on various occasions. If I remember correct, Mr. Carr himself put it in that meeting that the teacher must be taught and that the Inspector must be inspected. It is to see that this is done that a Director has been appointed. I wish the Director of Public Instruction and the Government will consider these matters carefully so that the people may be satisfied that their money is well spent. It is to draw the attention of Government to these questions that I brought this motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I have great pleasure in supporting Mr. Velu Pillai's motion. I was studying in the College during the time of the great Professors whom Mr. Velu Pillai was just alluding to.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Louder, please.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I was studying in the College during the time of the great Professors whom Mr. Velu Pillai was just alluding to. Their names are even now household words. Philosophy is gradually dying out. These are the days for chemistry. Everybody is rushing to chemistry and physical science. I fear the absence of philosophy and the study of too much chemistry and physics is making us very materialistic. The spiritual side of our nature is not sufficiently developed. The material side alone is developed with the study of the subjects that I mentioned.

Mr. Velu Pillai also spoke about manual training. A gentleman was got down here for two or three years. Then he was given an extension and then further extension.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Is Mr. Hoogewerf aware that a number of boys are instructed in manual training?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I am very much in favour of manual training myself. We want it. We want *charkas* and all sorts of work turned out by similar machines to be going on everywhere. We want the whole country to be full of cottage industries. I am one of the advocates of manual training. What Mr. Velu Pillai said was that Mr. Green has not sufficiently justified the high salary that he is drawing now. He also said that logs of blackwood and teak were being sawn and turned into furniture. I would like the Director of Public Instruction to show us the furniture turned out there. I am sure there must be tables, little chairs and things of that kind.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : No furniture of any great value is being made there. Only small articles are made and they are given to the boys.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I thought they would be preserved in the College. Are they taken home by the boys? That is a revelation to me.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*) : May I know whether Mr. Hoogewerf was ever instructed in manual training?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I was a good cricket player. (*Laughter.*) I did not exercise my hand in manual training.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*) : Could he repair his bat then?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Yes, I could repair my bat. I know carpentry also in my own little way. But I was never trained under Mr. Green. The fact that the boys are walking away with the little furniture made with Sirkar timber in the College under supervision at Government cost is a revelation to me. (*Laughter.*)

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : All the articles are not made of timber. Some are made of card-board.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Is it Government card-board, or does it belong to the boys?

PRESIDENT : Sirkar card-board.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : That makes no difference. The material does not alter the case.

In regard to travelling, if the Director must justify his existence, he should travel about, as stated by Mr. Velu Pillai. Otherwise he becomes a sort of Secretary, an agency for transmitting papers from the High Schools and the Colleges to the Government. His principal work is to travel about and to see that the teachers really teach and the Inspectors really inspect the various schools and that we get our money's worth. That is the special work of the Director of Public Instruction. With these few words, I strongly support Mr. Velu Pillai's motion.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Sir, it was impossible for me to anticipate from the wording of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's motion what subjects were to be discussed in connection with it and this House will not expect from me at short notice a deliberate and

[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

considered opinion on the many large questions which Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai has raised. I can only take them one by one and say what occurs to me at the moment. Mr. Velu Pillai referred to the fact that there were three Directors of Public Instruction and that two of them were men of Science and one was literary. As far as I know, he did not draw any inference from these facts.

The next item he dealt with was the establishment of the Philosophy Chair. I would not yield to Mr. Velu Pillai or to any member of this House in appreciation of the study of Philosophy. I should be quite pleased to see a Philosophy Chair in the Arts College, or in the Science College as Philosophy is now being studied more and more as a Science. Mr. Velu Pillai said that philosophy was a very popular subject, but my impression is that when the Philosophy Chair was taken away from the old College there were very few or no students.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask whether the philosophy students were getting the assistance in stipends which the mathematics students were getting at that time from the Government?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That I cannot say. I was not in the College when there was a Philosophy Chair.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether after the death of Professor Sundaram Pillai any Professor of Philosophy was appointed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it not a fact that the classes were held in the tiffin shed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That was far better than my experience. At college I did practical physics in a room where there were no facilities.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I suppose Mr. Stephenson has visited a good many laboratories after that.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have visited very good laboratories. The laboratory in the college in which I worked was completed and equipped before I left. Sir, there has now been a bifurcation. The Arts section has been sent to a new building and the question of instituting a Philosophy Chair can again be re-examined. I am not sure, however, whether there is a large demand for it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does not supply create demand?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sometimes. (*Laughter.*)

I agree almost entirely with what Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai said about the Sanskrit Chair.

I was of the same opinion when I considered the matter as Principal of the College. For the College, however, we have not too much money to spare and the number of students studying languages has never been very large. It was therefore considered that, as before, the Sanskrit and Dravidian languages Departments should be combined under one Professor. Advertisements for such a Professor were published here and in Madras, and the applications were considered by me, by Mr. Hodgson and by the Government. As none of the applicants was quite suitable it was considered better to retain the present arrangement of a Lecturer in Dravidian Languages and a Lecturer in Sanskrit than appoint a Professor.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are the lecturers doing their duties satisfactorily?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is a difficult question to answer off-hand. I do not think it can be answered satisfactorily.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has the Director of Public Instruction ever communicated to Government that Sanskrit, Tamil and Malayalam are not efficiently taught in the College?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): That is because the Director of Public Instruction is satisfied that this is done well. Is it not?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think that inference could be drawn.

Sir, Mr. Velu Pillai's remarks on Manual Training call for a certain amount of consideration. They are based on an entirely wrong idea as to what Manual Training is and as to what it is supposed to do. There is nothing necessarily vocational about Manual Training. It is a subject which can be introduced into any ordinary school course with much the same aims and the same objects as any other school course.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has not the Instructor of Manual Training published a book in which he has incorporated his directions for rattan and other works from a commercial standpoint?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Not from a commercial standpoint.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Did not the late Deputy Director, Mr. Ramaswami Aiyar, start certain schemes which combine Manual Training with vocational education? Are there not some G. O's on the subject?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There may be G. O's on the subject. But I do not remember any such scheme as is referred to by Mr. Velu Pillai.

Mr. Velu Pillai then asked about the results. The results are that everybody who undergoes Manual Training leaves school better educated than he would have been without such training. The

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

mental development of the pupil is helped by Manual Training just as other subjects would help it. The object is not to train artisans but merely to supplement the ordinary school course.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is Manual Training one of the subjects for the L. T. course ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know that, but Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar will be able to tell us. I do not think it is necessary for the examination. They all undergo Manual Training.

References were made about the amount of travelling done by the Director of Public Instruction. It was observed that it got less and less up to the point when it came to me and that afterwards it became practically *nil*. I should like very much to say that, when I took up the position of the Director of Public Instruction in Travancore, I had a very great deal to learn, and it appeared to me that I would at first learn more in the office than by visiting schools without any clear idea of what the rules and policy of the Department were.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has not Mr. Stephenson been acting as Director of Public Instruction for about a year some time back ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is true.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has it not enabled him to go through the history of education ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is not a question of history. One must also be acquainted with what is going on in the office—the current work. Every paper I had to deal with took me thrice the time which Mr. Hodgson took, as I had to go through all the files from the bottom.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not very necessary that the Director should know what is going on in the Colleges, High Schools and other institutions much more than what is taking place in the office ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot go round and be in Trivandrum. I should do direction work from the office as well as travel.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will not travelling shed much light on the office files ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Exactly. If Mr. Velu Pillai will give me another year, that is, to the end of 1100, I think I shall be able to do as much travelling as he would wish.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): For my part, I am willing to give another year.

MR. A. HOOGEWERFF (*Nominated*): I did not hear the last portion.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am sorry, Sir, but I am afraid that I have forgotten what I said. That is all that I have to say and I hope that the House will reject the motion which Mr. Velu Pillai has moved.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The answer that the Director of Public Instruction has made has satisfied me personally and it is for the House to say whether it is satisfied. Mr. Stephenson has conceded that there are defects and he has begun to tackle the question with the earnestness of a student and he is trying to do what lies in his power to make education more useful than it is now. As I feel satisfied that the promise is earnest and sincere I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 205 and 206.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

205. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24,642 for Head clerks, Head Accountants, etc., by Rs. 1,205.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

206. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24,642 for pay of 3 new clerks by Rs. 660.

Motion 207.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I beg to move the following motion:—

207. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,804 for travelling allowances by Rs. 100.

Sir, this is the motion to reduce the allotment of Rs. 12 804 by Rs. 100 which will commend itself to the House because it is a measure of justice, a measure of mercy and of self-respect. The Assistant Inspectors of Schools are given a very small travelling allowance which compares unfavourably with the travelling allowance given to other officers in the same cadre. Even the Overseer in the P. W. D. who is certainly a lower officer than the Assistant Inspector is able to get more by way of travelling allowance and the territorial limit of the Assistant Inspectors' jurisdiction is also extensive. I have seen Assistant Inspectors—responsible officers of the Education Department which is presided over by a gentleman who is jealous of the prestige of his Department—I have seen these people travelling along with the peons of other officers who are not more important than themselves, because they are not able to make both ends meet with the allowance given to them by the Government. In railways they cannot afford to pay second class fare. The P. W. D. and forest officers have got money enough to enable them to travel comfortably. They want to take their peons with them, when they travel. The servants travel in the third class and the Assistant Inspectors also travel in the third class. I have seen several Assistant Inspectors walking out the whole distance of 10 or 20 miles.

[President.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do they get only third class?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Tickets will be issued only when the money is paid.

PRESIDENT: He wants to know whether they get only third class fare.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): They get fixed T. A.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Is he aware that the Assistant Inspectors stationed on the Quilon-Shencottah line, etc., get the railway fare also, in addition to their T. A?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It is for the Government to explain if it is not correct. I do not possess all the information on all the small matters about the Education Department. Whatever that be, I promise to be satisfied if convincing facts are placed before me. But that does not change my position. There is travelling to be done whether there are railways or not. An Inspector walking into the school after travelling 10 miles without food, with a peon who is the embodiment of poverty and whose travelling allowance per month is the glorious sum of one rupee, is pitable. I submit that is the position which we have to examine. Our boys and girls go to schools and those who sit in judgment over the teachers who teach them must not strike them as paupers who are unable to travel about in due convenience. So if a reasonable adjustment is made in the large sum that is being spent on the Education Department it will be a salutary measure and good results will ensue. It is from the experience of these men that I am making this motion, and I trust that the Council will see eye to eye with me in this important matter.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I find that Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai sent this motion not to reduce the travelling allowance but to increase it. I have information with me here as to what the travelling allowances of the various Inspectors are, and I shall give the House an idea as to how the allotment under travelling allowance is actually spent. The permanent travelling allowance of Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular and English schools comes to Rs. 8,376 out of the Rs. 12,804 to which the motion relates.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): How much does one officer get?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Two Assistant Inspectors of English Schools get permanent travelling allowance of Rs. 35 each per mensem. Nineteen Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools get Rs. 25 each, and two who have to travel, in Hilly Districts, Peermade and Devicolam, Rs. $37\frac{1}{2}$ each.

PRESIDENT: What are their salaries?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): One class of them get Rs. 70 to Rs. 120 and another Rs. 125 to Rs. 175.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many days have they to be out on inspection work?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That question is now under consideration. As regards the Vernacular School Inspectors, the conclusion of the Chief Inspector is that as they have a definite amount of inspection work to do, it is not necessary to specify the number of days on which they should be on circuit. They have a certain number of schools to inspect and he thinks that it is better to fix the work and that it is not necessary to fix the number of days.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Will it not come to 20 days in the month?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I think it will come to 20 days in a month.

Then there are the clerks of the two Assistant Inspectors of English Schools who get a travelling allowance of Rs. 4 a month and their peons who, as pointed out by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, get one rupee per month. Nineteen clerks with the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular schools get Rs. 2 and their peons Re. 1. The clerks and peons in the hilly districts get Rs. 3 and Rs. 1½ each respectively.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask how many schools each of these Inspectors has to inspect in a month or in a year?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am not quite sure. It may be about 100 in a year.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many times do they inspect a school in one year?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Each school is being inspected once.

PRESIDENT: They are not expected to jump from one school to another. They inspect the schools in the geographical order.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): In regard to the other point mentioned, namely, that the Assistant Inspectors who travel by train are not allowed T. A., I may say that, in addition to their permanent T. A., they are allowed second class fare and their peons third class fare whenever they travel by train.

I should be pleased if Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai would make it possible to get money for increasing the travelling allowance of these people. There is a great deal of competition for the amount of money we have to spend. The matter has been well considered and it has not been found possible to increase their rates.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am not quite in favour of increasing the travelling allowance from the figures given to us by the Director of Public Instruction. Certain officers as a rule make a

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

little money from their travelling allowance. They are allowed double first class fares and they usually travel in the second class and in the night they even travel in the third class. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has Mr. Hoogewerf made any money out of his travelling allowance when he was in office? (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Very little, Sir. *Laughter.*) I had to travel very far and I always spent my travelling allowance properly. Now they make it a means of making money. Mr. Stephenson said that the Assistant Inspector is given, besides his monthly amount, second class railway fare also. That is handsome, I should think.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There are only two Inspectors who get ordinary travelling allowance in addition to their permanent travelling allowance.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The number of schools inspected is not very much on the average. It comes to only three schools.

PRESIDENT: Eight schools a month.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In a country cart I think it is very comfortable to travel. If you spread some straw in a country cart, you can sleep comfortably over it. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the fare for a country cart for a distance of ten miles now?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not know that. It is pretty long since I retired. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know if he has not travelled at all after his retirement? (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Not in country carts. I travelled by *vallams* then, and now I travel by steam-boats. (*Laughter.*) The Director of Public Instruction is the proper gentleman to judge these problems. Just because some Inspectors were travelling along with the peons, to make that an argument to increase their travelling allowance is not correct. If they sat with the peons, it is their own fault.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, Mr. Hoogewerf in this particular matter makes a distinction between the hardships of educated people and uneducated *kanis* (*laughter*) in the hills. Mr. Hoogewerf is not desirous that these Assistant Inspectors should be given some money which will enable them—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Absolutely wrong statement. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am arguing. (*Laughter.*) I am not misquoting him. That is the drift of his argument and that is the inference that I draw from it. The inference is that Mr. Hoogewerf is not anxious that the travelling allowance should be raised. Mr. Hoogewerf has been good enough to concede that Assistant Inspectors may travel in country carts.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I have no objection to their travelling on horseback if they can afford it. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): They may go in motor cars and on aero-planes if they can afford. (*Laughter.*)

I am talking of the actual conditions here. Mr. Nidiry has got a considerable fund of experience in these matters and he tells me that for an ordinary country cart we will have to pay chs. 5 per mile. Now, if an Assistant Inspector wants to travel 10 miles to and back, he will have to give about Rs. 2.

PRESIDENT: He is expected to keep his own cart.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): It is impossible, Sir. There are places—it is a matter of positive knowledge—there are places like Kalluppara where we can neither go in a boat nor in a bandy. You will have to change the cart to a boat after you have travelled some distance. That seems to be the thing in many places. And keeping a cart now-a-days is impossible because an ordinary bundle of grass has to be paid four annas. I am rightly reminded now by my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai that Mr. Hoogewerf's single cow is eating up all his pension. (*Loud and continued laughter.*)

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If the cow ate all my pension, I would not stand here now.

PRESIDENT: What Mr. Velu Pillai says is that you said your cow was making serious inroads into your pension.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Considerable inroad. (*Laughter.*) If that be so, males will consume more food than females. (*Laughter.*) So bulls will consume more than cows. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I inform Mr. Velu Pillai that it was a barren cow? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Thus then an officer keeping his own cart with great difficulty will have also to pay very heavy fare, often more than the railway fare for a boat. Now taking all these into consideration I trust the House will be alive to the necessity to increase the allowance of these officers and peons. But I have no hope that the matter will be rectified in the present budget. But there is the comforting assurance of Mr. Stephenson. He adroitly, I would say, wisely, said that it might not be possible to do anything this year. That implies that he will do his best next year. I have placed these matters before the House and if the House

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

is convinced of the necessity let us hope that the Assistant Inspectors and peons will get something more at least next year. Therefore I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 208.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

208. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,804 for travelling allowances by Rs. 100.

Motion 209.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

209. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 67,755 under Inspectors by Rs. 100.

നാട്ടുഭാഷാവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ നേരിട്ടു മേൽവിചാരം ഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറിലാണ് ഭരമേല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഭരണനയങ്ങളിലുള്ള ചില ന്യൂനതകളെ നിയമസഭയുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനായിട്ടാണ് ഈ മോഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്.

നാട്ടുഭാഷാവിദ്യാലയങ്ങളുടെ മേധാവിയായ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെ നിയമനാധികാരത്തിൽ [illegible] പേർ ഉള്ളതാണ്. ഇവരുടെ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളും, അവധികൊടുക്കൽ ആദിയായ ജോലികൾ തന്നെ ആ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെ സമയത്തിൽ പ്രധാനഭാഗത്തേയും അപഹരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് ഒരു പ്രധാനഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷത വഹിക്കുന്ന ഒരു വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഒരവസരത്തിൽ എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ നിയമനാധികാരം സമയത്തെ അന്യായമായിക്കളയാൻ ഇടയാക്കുന്നു എന്നും ആ അധികാരം അദ്ദേഹത്തിൽനിന്ന് എടുത്തുകളയുന്നതായാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഗവർൺമെന്റിനും കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുവക ജോലികൾ നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നും ആയിരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ അഭിപ്രായം പറയുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇന്നത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവീസിൽ അധികമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. നാട്ടുഭാഷാപള്ളിക്കൂടം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെ സംഗതിയിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള നിയമനാധികാരത്തിൽ ഏതാനും ഭാഗത്തെ അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാൎക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഡയറക്ടർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയും, ആ വിവരം ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനു എഴുതി അയക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഈ അഭിപ്രായത്തിനു വഴിപ്പെടാതെ ഈ [illegible] കീഴ്ജീവനക്കാരുടേയും നിയമനാധികാരം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ തന്നിൽ തന്നെ ഇരിക്കണമെന്നും, തന്റെ മറ്റു ജോലികൾക്കു പുറമേ ഇതിലേക്കു ധാരാളം സമയ

മുണ്ടെന്നും ഡയറക്ടറെയും ഗവർൺമെൻറിനെയും അറിയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ൭൹ർവ്വ കീഴ്ജീവനക്കാരുടെ നിയമനാധികാരം നടത്തുന്നതിനു ധാരാളം സമയമുണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുന്ന ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ നാട്ടുഭാഷാവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൻെറ—വിശേഷിച്ചു പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൻെറ—വദ്ധനയ്ക്കു വേണ്ടി വേലചെയ്യുന്നതു എങ്ങിനെയായിരിക്കുമെന്നു ധാരാളം അനുമാനിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ൭൭ പകുതികളിൽ ഇനിയും പ്രൈമറി പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളില്ല.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): ൧൦൯൨-ലെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറൽ അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ൧൨ പകുതികളിൽ മാത്രമേ അംഗീകൃതമായ ഒരു വിദ്യാലയംപോലും ഇല്ലാതെയുള്ളുഎന്നും അതിൽ പത്തു പകുതികൾ പീരുമേട്ടിലും ദേവികുളത്തിലും രണ്ടു പകുതികൾ ചെങ്കോട്ടത്താലൂക്കിലുമാണെന്നും ബാക്കിയുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളിലെല്ലാം അംഗീകൃതവിദ്യാലയങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നും രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു മെംബർക്ക് അറിവുണ്ടോ ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ മററു പലതിലും കണ്ടുവരുന്നതുപോലെ മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. ലെജിസ്ലേറ്റീവ് കൌൺസിലിൽ ചോദിച്ച ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സ്റ്റേററമെൻറിൽനിന്ന് ൭൭ പകുതികളിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുവക പ്രൈമറിസ്കൂളുകൾ ഇല്ലെന്നു കാണുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ജോലിയും അതിൻെറ പൂർണ്ണമായ അന്വേഷണവും അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ ഭരമേല്പിച്ചിട്ട് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ തൻെറ കീഴ്വരുതിയിലുള്ള ൭൹ർവ്വ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളുടെ ആക്ഷേപമാററംമുതലായ ജോലികളിൽ തൻെറ സമയത്തിൽ പ്രധാനഭാഗത്തേയും വിനിയോഗിച്ചു വരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു. ഇത് ഒരിക്കലും അനുവദിച്ചു കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറുടെ നിയമനാധികാരത്തിൽ ൧൨ രൂപാവരെയുള്ള നിയമനാധികാരം അസിസ്റ്റൻറു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാൎക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരാണ് വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാരുടെ ജോലികളെ പരിശോധിക്കേണ്ട ആളുകൾ. അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു ശരിയായി ജോലിയെ ചെയ്യിക്കേണ്ടവരും അവരാണ്. അങ്ങിനെ പലേചുമതലകളും വഹിക്കേണ്ടവരായ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാൎക്കു അവരിൽ ൧൨ രൂപാവരെ ശമ്പളമുള്ളവരുടെ നിയമനം, ശിക്ഷ, സ്ഥലംമാററം ഇവയ്ക്കുള്ള അധികാരം ഇല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം കാൎയ്യക്ഷമതയോടു കൂടി ഭരണം നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

സ്വിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാർ എല്ലാവരും ഉൽകൃഷ്ടപരീക്ഷാവിജയികളും മിക്കവാറും എൽ. റ്റി. പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളുമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാർക്ക് ഈ അധികാരം കൊടുത്താൽ അവർ അതിനെ ദുർവ്വിനിയോഗിക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കാൻ അവകാശമില്ലാത്തതാണു.

നാട്ടുഭാഷാപള്ളിക്കൂടം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെ നിയമനാധികാരം മുഴുവനും തൻെറ കൈയിൽ തന്നെയിരിക്കണമെന്നു ഡയറക്ടർക്ക് എഴുതിഅയക്കുന്നതിനും, അതിൽ പ്രത്യേകതാൽപര്യംകാണിക്കുന്നതിനും അദ്ദേഹത്തെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായ സംഗതികളെപററിയാണ് ഇനി പര്യാലോചിക്കേണ്ടതു. തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൃഷ്ണൻവക എന്നൊരു ജാതിക്കാരുണ്ടു. അവരുടെ ഇടയിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം വളരെ കുറവും ധനാഭായസ്ഥിതി മോശവുമാണ്. ഈ വർഗ്ഗത്തിലുൾപ്പെട്ട ഒരു ചെറുപ്പക്കാരൻ സ്കൂൾഫൈനൽ പരീക്ഷ ജയിച്ചതിൽപിന്നീടു പള്ളിക്കൂടം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഒരു ജോലിക്കായി ഡെപ്യൂട്ടിഡയറക്ടർ മിസ്റ്റർ രാമസ്വാമി അയ്യരോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കയും, അദ്ദേഹം ഒരു ആക്ടിങ്ങ് ജോലികൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്തു. അയാൾ മൂന്നുവർഷം പലേ പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലും ആക്ടിംഗ ജോലിനോക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അയാൾക്ക സ്ഥിരമായ ഒരു ജോലി കൊടുക്കാതെ പിന്നീടു പിരിച്ചയയ്ക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. നിയമസഭയിൽവെച്ചു തന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഒരുസ്റ്റേറമെൻറിൽനിന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ സുബ്രഹ്മണ്യശാസ്ത്രി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ആയതിൽ പിന്നീടു നാർന്നു പേരെ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു. അതിൽ ഒരാൾപോലും കൃഷ്ണൻവകയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവരല്ല. മാതൃഭാഷ മലയാളമായിരിക്കയും, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ താണപടിയിൽ നില്ക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്ന കൃഷ്ണൻവകയിലെ പരീക്ഷാവിജയിയായ ഒരുചെറുപ്പക്കാരൻ മൂന്നു വർഷം പകരം ജോലി നോക്കിയതിൽപിന്നീടു സ്ഥിരമായ ജോലികൊടുക്കാതെ അയാളെ പിരിച്ചു വിട്ടിട്ട് അതിൽ പിന്നീടു പരീക്ഷകൾ ജയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർക്കും മാതൃഭാഷ മലയാളമല്ലാത്തവർക്കും ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതു ന്യായമല്ലാത്തതാണു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങൾക്ക വേണ്ടീട്ടാണു നിയമാധികാരം തന്നിൽത്തന്നെ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള നിർബന്ധമുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളത്. മിസ്റ്റർ സുബ്രഹ്മണ്യശാസ്ത്രിയുടെ നിയമനങ്ങളിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പലേ അനീതികളും ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്. ൧൫ രൂപാവരെയുള്ള നിയമനാധികാരം അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാർക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രത്യക്ഷമായും അക്രമമായും ഉള്ള അനീതികൾ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is very difficult to deal with Mr. Kumara Pillai's speech. I have understood, with the help of Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai, the main heads of his speech, which deals with the Inspector of Vernacular schools who has a very large jurisdiction and very large powers of appointment. As the amount of work is very large there are certain ways in which things are not going too satisfactorily. I can only say that with regard to appointments in English schools I have already made investigations. If I get the opportunity during this debate, when discussing the motions on Education, I should like to make a statement with regard to them. In regard to the Vernacular School department, I have not as a matter of fact been able to give the matter the same attention. But I promise that, if any matter is brought to my notice, I will certainly deal with it. Beyond that, I cannot say more at present.

MR. T K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. The Director of Public Instruction said that he was not able to follow Malayalam speeches. There is an arrangement by which the non-official members who do not know English are given the benefit of the translation of those speeches. Cannot such an arrangement be made so that the members who do not understand Malayalam may get the benefit of it? That is the general question I am raising.

PRESIDENT: He is having the benefit of Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai's interpretation which, I think, is as good as what Mr. Paramesvaran is getting

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. Stephenson said that he understood only the main points. To make him understand the facts and figures and arguments in all their aspects impressed upon the Government, it may not be easy for Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai or anybody else who has got his own department to take care of. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Unless the speech is translated sentence by sentence, all that is not possible. I think Mr. Stephenson has given us a correct *résumè* of Mr. Kumara Pillai's speech and therefore I think he has understood the gist of it all right. I do not think any other arrangement is necessary under the circumstances.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Two motions, No. 210 and 211, may be considered together, if you, Sir, have no objection. I would amalgamate both the motions, for the arguments in support of both the motions are the same.

PRESIDENT: It is now 5 o'clock. If the House wants to rise, I have no objection.

We will now rise and meet again at 11-30 to-morrow.

The Council adjourned at 5 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 25th September 1924.

SECOND SESSION, 1099.

(Adjourned Meeting).

(Official Report.)

The Council re-assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven thirty-six of the Clock, the President presiding.

NEW MEMBER.

The following member was sworn in:
Mr. W. H. Pitt (*Commissioner of Police*).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12* —

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Vernacular Schools, Vaikam.

81. Mr. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the amounts spent for the Matiyattara (Vaikam West) and the Aiyarkulangara vernacular schools in the shape of compensation for buildings, furniture and school appliances, since these schools were handed over to the Education Department;

(*b*) whether a first grade Headmaster will be put in charge of at least one of these schools;

(*c*) whether the furniture and school appliances of the Vaikam Vernacular Middle School, which was recently abolished, will be distributed between these two schools;

(*d*) whether the Munshi, the Drill Master and the teachers who were relieved from the Vaikam Middle School will be posted to these schools; and

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

(e) whether the Government will acquire land and start a primary school in the town?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) The information has been called for.

(b) The matter is being examined by the Ag. Director of Public Instruction.

(c) Yes. The Inspector of Vernacular Schools has issued the necessary orders in the matter already.

(d) No. These members of the Vaikam V. M. School staff have been transferred to other schools where the need for them was greater.

(e) Yes. The Government have sanctioned this and the Ag. Director of Public Instruction will take the necessary action in the matter.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether a first grade Headmaster will be put in charge of one of these schools at least during the course of this year?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is stated in the answer that the matter is being examined by the Acting Director of Public Instruction and the member's wish will certainly be communicated to him.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether the Drill Master and the Munshi were not members of the staff of the school which was recently abolished?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, they were attached to the school which was abolished.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether, during the course of this year, the Munshi and the Drill Master will be entertained in one of these schools?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There is no provision in the Education Budget for this year for the appointment of any additional Munshi or Drill Master in Vernacular schools.

Motor Buses.

82. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to prepare and lay on the table a statement showing:

(a) the number of motor buses and lorries carrying more than nine passengers, licensed to ply daily on the Trivandrum-Nagercoil, Trivandrum-Quilon, Kottarakara-Kottayam and Kottayam-Mundakayam roads;

(b) the head weight of each; and

(c) the number of buses and lorries run by Travancoreans and by foreigners?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). A statement* containing the information is appended.

Saving due to Abolition of the Motor Inspector's Post.

83. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*):

(*a*) What was the pay of the Motor Inspector?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount which they have gained since the abolition of the Motor Inspector's post, after deducting the income which they used to get under motor inspection?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The pay of the Motor Bus Inspector was Rs. 120-10/2-200.

(*b*) The Motor Inspector's post has not been abolished, but has not been filled. The saving to Government is about Rs. 50.

Sub-Inspector of Police, Ranni.

84. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received a memorial from the inhabitants of Ranni regarding the misdeeds of the Sub-Inspector of Police there?

(*b*) Are they aware of the fact that several petitions have been submitted against him to the Police authorities?

(*c*) Are they aware that the said Inspector has been convicted by courts of justice for offences against the penal laws of the State?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Five such petitions are reported to have been received.

(*c*) He was once convicted for abetment of assault and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 100 by the District Magistrate, Trivandrum, but the fine was on appeal reduced to Rs. 20, by the Sessions Court, Trivandrum.

Appointments in the Registration Department.

85. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of years the present Director of Registration has been in charge of the Department;

(*b*) the nature of the appointments he can himself make;

(*c*) the appointments he can only recommend, if any;

(*d*) the number of appointments he has made and he has recommended during his tenure of office;

(*e*) the number of Roman Catholics, other Christians, Brahmins and Nayars among those so appointed;

(*f*) the number of applications received from Roman Catholics; and

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* *Vide* appendix—page 678.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

(*g*) whether the Government would see their way to appoint Roman Catholic applicants in the Department?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Six years.

(*b*) The Director of Registration has powers to make appointments the pay of which does not exceed Rs. 40.

(*c*) Appointments other than those mentioned in part (*b*).

(*d*) 105 and 2, respectively.

(*e*) Roman Catholics 3.
Other Christians 19.
Brahmins 11.
Nayars 51.

(*f*) Ten.

(*g*) Roman Catholic applicants are being appointed in the Department and Government do not see any reason to issue any special instructions in regard to them.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The number of Catholics appointed is given there. Will the Government be pleased to state what kinds of appointments they hold in the Registration Department?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether, considering the very small number of Roman Catholics in the Registration Department, they will give their kind consideration to this matter?

PRESIDENT: To what matter?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The matter of appointing more Catholics as vacancies occur. There are only three and I do not know whether they are mochis, peons or clerks in the Department.

PRESIDENT: Answer (*g*) gives information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): There are only a small number of Catholics in the Department and the Chief Secretary was not able to tell me what sort of appointments they were holding. Therefore, considering the small number of appointments which Catholics hold in the Department, will the Government be pleased to state that their claims for employment in the Department will be considered in future?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In the Registration Department those who seek admission have to pass an entrance examination first. After passing the entrance examination, if they want to be promoted to a post carrying a salary of Rs. 25 and above, they have to pass a higher Registration test.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : It is only on condition that the Catholics are able to pass all these examinations that they need be employed in the Department. I do not want any free passport to be issued to them.

Boards of Examiners and Assistant Examiners.

86. Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list showing :

(*a*) the names of those that constituted the Boards of Examiners for the last ten years (1089-1099) for the English School Leaving Certificate and the Vernacular School Leaving Examinations, together with the schools or colleges, as the case might be, from which they were recruited and the number of years each one served on the Boards ;

(*b*) the names of the Chief Examiners for the same period and for the same examinations, with the subjects in which they examined, and the schools or colleges to which they were attached ; and

(*c*) the names of the Assistant Examiners for the same period and for the same examinations with the subjects in which they examined, and the schools or colleges to which they were attached ?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The list asked for by the member is too voluminous to be printed. It is available for perusal in the office of the Secretary to the Legislative Council. In a few cases, the list does not give the names of the schools or colleges to which the Assistant Examiners were attached and it is not considered necessary to collect further information under that head.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : How many Christians were there on this Board ?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : I have got the list here. I shall pass it on to Mr. Hoogewerf and he may peruse it.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I want it for the information of the House.

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The list is a very long one. I find in the list a number of persons belonging to the Christian community also. I have not made a calculation.

[President.]

Appendix.

Vide Answer to Question No. 82.

Roads.	No. of buses plying.	Number run by Travancoreans.	Number run by Foreigners.	Weight in tons.				
Trivandrum—Nagercoil ...	23			Vehicles of	1 ton	chassis	No.	5
				Do.	$1\frac{1}{4}$	Do.	No.	4
				Do.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Do.	No.	15
Trivandrum—Quilon ...	1	31	14	Do.	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Do.	No.	6
				Do.	3	Do.	No.	4
Kottarakara—Kottayam ...	6			Do.	$3\frac{1}{2}$	Do.	No.	4
Kottayam—Mundakayam ...	15			Do.	4	Do.	No.	7
						Total	No.	45

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND XII—EDUCATION—(*Contd.*)

Motion 210.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayana Pillai, you wanted your two motions Nos. 210 and 211 to be discussed together. I find that they are cuts under two different items in the Budget. So, I think, they will have to be discussed separately.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): My arguments may be advanced in moving the one; and the other I will move separately. I beg to move the following motion:—

210. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 67,755 under Inspectors by Rs. 100.

By means of this motion, I seek to invite the attention of the Government to the condition of teachers in the Vernacular Schools of the State. In the Vernacular Schools for Boys, in the High School, the Middle School and the Primary Sections, all put together, we have got about 5,000 teachers under the Inspector of Vernacular Schools. It has oftentimes been brought to the notice of this House that the poor pittance that is allowed to the majority of these teachers is hardly sufficient.

PRESIDENT: That comes more properly under motion 224 which proposes a reduction in the lump provision under Vernacular Education. I thought you were going to speak about the Inspectorate.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am proceeding to the Inspectorate.

On a prior occasion, when the unsatisfactory condition of the pay of these teachers was discussed in this House, Mr. Hodgson, who was then in charge of the Education Department of the State, told us that, if you wanted cheap education all that was possible was only to give the present pay to these teachers. Now, the condition of these teachers, I fear, is not quite fully realised by the persons who control the Education Department. The majority of these teachers, as may be seen from the budget provision, get only Rs. 14 each. Now it is hardly sufficient under the present circumstances and in these strenuous times to enable a person to live decently. Further, these teachers have to dress elegantly to command respect and also to live in such a fashion as may not be derogatory to the calling to which they belong. When such is the condition, the question naturally arises whether an indiscriminate transfer of a teacher from his native village is a justifiable action. I know, Sir, that Government have already noticed this fact and have issued necessary orders that, as far as possible, teachers should be retained in their native centres. But the violation of that rule is so rampant that I have been obliged to interpellate Government on a prior occasion, and also to ask the Government to provide the necessary safeguards in the interests of these teachers that they are not unnecessarily transferred from their native villages. On that occasion Government said that there was absolutely no necessity to record the reasons for the transfer of these teachers. My friend, Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar, who was in charge of that question, told me that the Government were prepared to raise a conclusive presumption as to the propriety of all these transfers and were not prepared to go any further. I am submitting that, if the Government would look into the question, it might be seen that transfers have been made by the inspecting staff in such a fashion as to cause very serious hardship to these teachers. If a teacher is retained in his native village, probably he will be able to eke out his livelihood with the small pittance that he gets as teacher. But once he is transferred from his house and sent to a far-off place, the question arises whether he will be able to engage a cook for himself or a servant to assist him, or to pay the rent for his lodging, and whether for all these things the fourteen rupees that is paid to him by the Government would be sufficient. That is the question which demands serious consideration. It is therefore that I am submitting that the reasons for which the transfers are made should be recorded. If the reasons are recorded, Government can easily find out whether the transfers are justifiable or not. But so long as it is not done, any hazy explanation that the transfer has been necessitated by the exigency of the department or by the misbehaviour on the part of the teacher, can be easily put forward and nobody will be in a position to check the propriety of the transfer. The condition of these teachers is extremely pitiable and any relief in the direction of minimising the expenditure that a teacher has necessarily to

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

meet, should certainly be welcomed. The necessity for outward appearance in the matter of dress and all other things would consume the whole of the sum of Rs. 14 that the teacher is paid. Probably, many of them are dining with Duke Humphrey. Government would think that therefore they are leading an aristocratic life and that they may get on well even without any addition or increment to their pay. But the condition of the aerated stomach is imaginable and I would submit that to keep these teachers in that condition or to ask them to do their work in the school is certainly not very pleasant to contemplate. For example, I know a teacher, a native of my own place, who has been appointed in Todupuzha or Minachil. Every morning from 8 to 10 A. M. he has to cook; and in the heat of the sun he has to run up perspiring to the school. Naturally after such an experiment in the kitchen and under the sun, one can more or less imagine how far the teacher would be able to concentrate his attention upon the boys presented before him for instruction. He slides certainly, though not voluntarily, into the realm of sleep; and say after 2 o' clock wakes up slowly, feeling as much refreshed as his semi-starvation would permit. Naturally he is only able to give such meagre and lifeless instruction as is possible under these circumstances. I am submitting that a consideration of the condition of these teachers makes it absolutely necessary that all unnecessary and wanton transfers should be discouraged by the Government. As far as possible they should be retained in their native villages or in the vicinity thereof.

The case of the girls appointed in Girls' Schools is much worse. The Inspectress of Girls' Schools also probably does not realise the difficulty to which these girls are put. Many of these girls are quite young and after getting themselves qualified by passing the Middle School or Higher Examination seek some sort of employment owing to the fact that they are hovering on the fringes of poverty. In the case of these girls also, the salary, as I see in the budget presented to this House, is generally only Rs. 14. If one of these girls is transferred from her native village to a distant village, how can that girl proceed to that place without some female assistance? It is extremely difficult. She has necessarily to take her mother or some other female guardian with her. If no such woman is also taken, naturally there is the necessity to have a female servant besides. All the necessary house-hold expenses of these women have to be met out of this Rs. 14. I am submitting, Sir, we can more or less imagine the extreme difficulty and the pinch of poverty to which the school-mistress will be put. There also, therefore, it is an extremely embarrassing situation that is being created by indiscriminate transfers. Further, we see that when the situation reaches the limits of absolute impossibility all manner of imaginable and unimaginable misbehaviour would be resorted to by these teachers, males and females. Because it is a question of keeping body and soul together and in a struggle of that description the question of proper conduct, etc., will

inevitably be lost sight of. So, to avoid all this contingency, I would press upon the attention of Government the wisdom and necessity of keeping these teachers, especially the girls, in their native villages as far as possible. It is to invite the attention of the Government to this aspect of the question that I have brought forward this motion. I interpellated Government on a prior occasion and the answer given was, I am sorry to observe, extremely unsatisfactory. With these words, I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting Mr. Narayana Pillai's motion. I am extremely glad that he has brought this important matter to the notice of this House. I support the motion on another important point also, *viz.*, the point of morality. It is not very desirable that a young man married to a young wife should leave the wife at home and go to other places. It may end in his "having a sweetheart at every port" as the sailors often have. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT : Why should they leave their wives behind ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): On account of poverty; that is what Mr. Narayana Pillai said.

In the case of women, it is harder still. I am extremely glad that this point was stressed by Mr. Narayana Pillai. I have had scores of people coming to me asking me to recommend to the Inspectress that they be transferred to the places where their husbands live. I was rather afraid to approach Miss Carrapiet who, I know, is a very strict lady, on this point, although I quite sympathised with the request made to me. What God has put together, let no man or woman put asunder. (*Laughter.*) It is bad enough for a man to leave his house and go away. It is much harder for a woman to leave behind her husband and go to distant places. Certainly, as stated by the worthy President, a man can take his wife with him if he could afford it. But, the woman, how could she take her husband also with her? Probably he may be employed elsewhere. It will be very hard that the husband should give up his job if he has to accompany his wife. Unless the husband happens to be unemployed and goes with her, I dot think it is possible for the wife to take her husband along with her to the place where she is transferred. Under these circumstances, it is extremely hard that the wife should live alone without her husband. There is great danger in these matters. So, on public grounds of morality, I would earnestly ask the Director of Public Instruction to keep this important point in view in the posting of teachers.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai raised two points, I think. The first was the difficulty that the teachers undergo through being transferred from their native villages. With regard to that point, the orders of the Education Department are that, as far as possible, teachers should be retained in their native villages.

[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I ask Mr. Stephenson how many teachers there are who belong to the Ambalapuzha taluk and are retained in the Ambalapuzha taluk?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot answer that question off-hand.

Supposing in Muvattupuzha there are 200 teachers eligible for employment in Vernacular schools and there are only places for 100, what are we to do for the other one hundred teachers? Are we to build new schools to employ those teachers even if there is not a sufficient number of pupils to study there? All that the Government can do is to pass orders which are fair and to see that those orders are carried out.

The next question which Mr. Narayana Pillai raised was that of pay. When it comes to the question of pay, we have to deal with one of the most difficult questions that any Government can be faced with.

PRESIDENT: I think he mentioned it only incidentally as a reason for exercising caution in the matter of transfer of teachers.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The pay of the teachers is not so high as some of us would wish. But in regard to that, I would like to mention that that matter has also engaged the attention of Government.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether it is not the recognised policy of Government to retain the teachers in their native villages?

PRESIDENT: That is the policy—that is what Mr. Stephenson says.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*). Within the last twelve years the pay of the lowest paid Vernacular school teachers has been doubled. In the revision which was completed in 1914, their pay was raised from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10. In 1919 it was further raised to Rs. 12, and in the last revision, it was raised to Rs. 14. Comparing the pay granted to teachers in British India, this pay is quite fair. The following is the scale of pay as recommended for adoption there when funds permit:—Standard I, Rs. 8; Standard II, Rs. 10; Standard III, Rs. 12; Standard IV, Rs. 15; and above Standard V, Rs. 20 and above. The teacher after training gets such an allowance as will raise his monthly pay to Rs. 10, if his pay is less than Rs. 10. In Travancore, the teachers of the first three classes are paid Rs. 14 and when they are trained they get Re. 1 as allowance. Sir, I do not think I need say much more with regard to this point.

Mr. Hoogewerf raised the point that the difficulty of transferring teachers from their native places was particularly hard in the case of women teachers. I know, as a matter of fact, that the Inspectress is paying very careful attention to this matter. Recently, I may point out, with regard to the appointment of an Assistant Inspectress, that no

teacher in Trivandrum was willing to accept this place because it involved a transfer from her own place.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I beg to support Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's motion. He has described graphically the difficulties which the teachers undergo on account of their low salary when at the same time they are obliged to serve outside their own villages on this small pay. It has been asked by Mr. Stephenson how, in case there are 200 teachers in one taluk and if there are only 100 places there, it is possible to engage all these 200 teachers in the same taluk. Necessarily they will have to go outside. It would appear from this that at present all the available hands in a particular taluk have been employed in that particular taluk, and it was sheer necessity that induced the Department to send out persons to other centres. But, as a matter of fact, the complaints would not have arisen at all if such had been the case. The complaint has arisen because there are vacancies existing in a particular taluk and teachers belonging to that taluk, and employed elsewhere, applying for transfer to those schools in that particular taluk to which they belong.

PRESIDENT: I thought that the village was the unit, not the taluk. The argument was they should be employed in their native village, not in their taluk.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I say they should be employed at least in the same taluk.

PRESIDENT: It is only if they are in the same village that the necessity for renting a house, for employing servants, etc., will disappear. If they are only in the same taluk, they may still have the same difficulty.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): They can be employed at least within easy reach of their village. In most of our taluks, the schools are situated very near. The distance between their home and the schools is not very great and they can reside within a radius of two or three miles. I know, as a matter of fact, in some places teachers reside some six miles away.

PRESIDENT: You cannot expect punctuality from teachers residing so far away.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): As a matter of fact, they are trying to be as punctual as possible, and I can quote examples wherein for the simple reason that they have to serve as school-master in a particular school they have to reside away from their native villages. The only request is that, whenever facilities exist for teachers being put in schools in their own villages or in schools adjacent to their own villages, it ought to be the policy of the Department to see that the transfers are so effected as to facilitate the teachers to serve in their own villages. As a matter of fact, we see that several persons are serving in very distant taluks.

PRESIDENT: Even when vacancies exist in their own taluks?

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Even when vacancies exist in their own taluks, and even when a teacher from one taluk is willing to be transferred to another taluk which is his native place while the latter consents to go to the former taluk which is his native place. I will give an example. A school-master at Neyyattinkara is serving at Kottarakara, and a school-master at Kottarakara is serving at Neyyattinkara. The Neyyattinkara man wishes to be transferred to Kottarakara and the Kottarakara man wishes to be transferred to Neyyattinkara. Even then, facilities are not given. It is desirable that, in the matter of transfers, the authorities concerned should be more sympathetic to the teachers and should give them, as far as possible, facilities to serve in their own taluks. With these observations, I support the motion of Mr. Narayana Pillai.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. In doing so, I must submit to the Council that there are real complaints from very many of these Vernacular school teachers in the matter of their transfers. I believe Mr. Stephenson said that it was on account of the difficulty experienced by the Department for want of places that such complaints arose. I will presently mention, for the information of Mr. Stephenson, a concrete instance to prove that his statement is not correct. There is a Primary Vernacular school at Kottarakara; there was a teacher in that school by name Gopala Pillai, nephew of a Vakil in that taluk—who is myself. He was living with me, and was working in the school which is next to my house. When the school re-opened, it appears that he got orders to the effect that he was transferred to Chattannur which was 20 miles away from Kottarakara and 25 miles away from his native village. The order came to me as a surprise. Next time when I came to Trivandrum I ran up to the Inspector and asked him why that transfer was made. He told me that it was nothing personal. On a previous occasion I had interpellated in this Council about the collection of a reduced rate of fees in the Training School, in the answer to which at least some mistake committed by some one or other officer along with the Inspector came to light. Probably on account of that he suspected that I would take this matter as personal. But I told him that the man who was appointed in the Kottarakara school in his place belonged to Shencottah and that he was transferred from Kuzhittura. I asked him why a Kuzhitturai man should be sent to Kottarakara in the place of a man who was a native of that place. I further told him that it would be enough if he was transferred to Mannadi where also we have got a house to live in. I need only say that he was not transferred to any of my places but to a place which was 10 miles away from Kottarakara. When I next met him he told me that, if he wanted a transfer to the Kottarakara School which is in the same district, I might ask the local Assistant Inspector of Schools. I need not say anything more.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May I know the school to which he was last posted ?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): To the school at Vakkana which is 8 or 10 miles away from Kottarakara, a place where one cannot get a house to live in. As a matter of fact, he was starving in the noon. He has to go after his meals direct to the school and walk for 10 miles. Though it is against rules to live at a distance, I allowed him to do so, telling him that I would see to it if anything happened to him. This is a transfer which was effected not on account of the exigencies of the Department, as Mr. Stephenson has said. There are several other instances; but I do not want to mention them here. I submit this in order that Mr. Stephenson may see that transfers give rise to real complaints.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*); Sir, the problem of transferring these poor teachers to their native places could have been solved long ago if only the authorities had tried to do so. It is a legitimate cause for complaint by these teachers. They always find it difficult to go to their own houses at least once or twice in a year except during the vacation. If they could at least have been transferred to places near their own taluks they could have had this advantage and the distress due to their being employed in distant places could have been minimised. It is time for the Director of Public Instruction to make an enquiry into the matter and to try to give effect to the policy already recognised by the Government, *viz.*, that these poor teachers should be employed, as far as possible, in their own taluks. With these remarks, I support the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I was rather anxious to speak on this motion. The subject at the first blush would seem rather unimportant because it deals mainly with the transfer of some low paid individuals in the service of Government which many ordinarily be left to the head of the Department. Arguments of various kinds were advanced and some of the speakers put their case in very clear language and emphasised on the suffering that falls to the lot of these poor teachers, both male and female. I quite concede that the fund of human misery in the world is not going to be removed whatever be the directions which the Government may give. Some people may be happy, others may be unhappy; some people may be lucky, others may be unlucky. All the same, by a proper attempt made in that direction, we shall be able to minimise the suffering on the part of these hard-worked officers in the service of Government. Their pay is small. Smallness of pay is, at any rate, not the monopoly of the teacher. There are many employees in other departments also under the same difficulty. That is a general question. I have advocated in this very hall that the pay of the teachers should be raised. But the general question of finding funds has to be tackled very carefully. Therefore I do not wish to speak on that point just now.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

With regard to the transfers, a clear case has been made out. The hardships caused on account of the frequent transfers effected are felt more by women than by men. It may be stated that these are the days of liberty and freedom. But we are accustomed to look upon ladies as wanting protection—protection by men and protection by Government. And it is very much more difficult for a lady to travel with one child at the breast, another on the shoulder and a third being led by the hand, and nobody to accompany them, as it often happens. The word 'servant' was heard mentioned by many speakers. The term 'servant' has absolutely no application to this kind of officers. If they can afford to have servants, would they accept a pay of Rs. 14? So, the fact of these teachers having servants may be conveniently forgotten. (*Laughter.*)

Now, Mr. Hoogewerf raised a point that the marriage tie is sacred and inviolable. I agree with him that it is so. Therefore at the time of the transfer, care should be taken that no trouble is created; for that would be giving the departmental officers liberty to look into the facts of each case. That will give them too much work. It will not be to the good of the teachers themselves. I have to say that what I say in regard to that point refers to all teachers—women teachers particularly, who are not married. If a woman teacher happens to be a married woman, and her husband is employed in another Department, in order to keep the marriage life quite all right two departmental heads have to unite. (*Laughter.*) That is not possible. If the Director of Public Instruction has no objection to transfer a woman to a particular place, his immediate neighbour, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai, whose jurisdiction may extend over the husband, may not be able to agree with him. I am referring to cases in which women teachers are not in this plight. The fact that men and women teachers are not treated properly in the matter of pay is not one upon which we can congratulate ourselves. Now, if a lady passes the B. A., she sometimes gets very much more than a young man who takes the same degree. If a lady passes the M. B. C. M. from the Madras Medical College, she gets Rs. 150 to start with, and the man who has also passed M. B. C. M. in the same College gets only Rs. 10. Preferential treatment is therefore given to ladies in other departments. When this is the case, why should not preferential treatment be given to ladies in the Education Department? That is a question which has to be considered. The difficulties that were present to the mind of the Director of Public Instruction while he was speaking are not real. It is possible to arrange for people being kept in their own place without detriment to departmental interests. It may not be possible in all cases, but in the vast majority of cases it will be possible, because the schools are distributed throughout Travancore and it is only in particular places that teachers are to be appointed in preference. It is not the case that these schools are situated in one place. There may be exceptional cases,

But the generality alone need be considered. I think, Sir, that with regard to the proposal to retain a woman teacher in her own taluk, not her own village, there is considerable force in what Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai said. If a woman is in her own place, even if she is one or two miles away from the school she will keep up punctuality, etc. If a woman is removed from her house, she will not be very vigilant in teaching as she will have to attend to her own domestic interests.

One word more I have to say. It is not enough if the Director of Public Instruction says that "as far as possible" it is being done. "As far as the law lays down" are words which we lawyers cannot trust. Whether the rules are being conformed to, how many complaints there are against the system and in how many cases the people fail to get justice—these enquiries should be made in a regular manner without any bias. I commend the motion to the acceptance of the House.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തെ ചുരുങ്ങിയ ശമ്പളക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെയിടയിൽ ഏററവും കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരാണ് മലയാളം പള്ളിക്കൂടം ഉപാദ്ധ്യായന്മാരും ഉപാദ്ധ്യായികളും. അവർ മററു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ സ്വല്പ ശമ്പളക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതൽ ചുമതലയുള്ള ജോലിയാണ് വഹിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇത്ര വളരെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ള കൃത്യങ്ങളിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നവർക്കു കഴിയുന്നതും കഷ്ടതകുറച്ചു സൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്ത കടമയാണ്. എക്സൈസ്, ഫാറസ്റ്റ്, ലാൻഡുറവന്യൂ, പൊലീസ മുതലായ തുറകളിൽ ചുരുങ്ങിയ ശമ്പളക്കാർക്കു മിക്കവർക്കും മററു പ്രകാരത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ വരവിനു വഴിയുണ്ടെന്ന് ജനങ്ങൾക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ രണ്ടു കൂട്ടരും പെൻഷൻ പററി പിരിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷമുള്ള അവരുടെ കാലക്ഷേപത്തിൻെറ സ്ഥിതിയിൽനിന്ന് ഈ സംഗതി മനസ്സിലാക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. മലയാളം പള്ളിക്കൂടം ഉപാദ്ധ്യായന്മാർക്കു അവരുടെ ആഹാരത്തിനും വസ്ത്രധാരണത്തിനും പോലും മതിയാകാത്ത ഒരു തുകയാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ ശമ്പളമായി ലഭിച്ചുവരുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു അവരുടെ കുഡുംബത്തെക്കൂടി രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു മതിയാകയില്ല. അവരെ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം സ്വദേശത്തു തന്നെ വച്ചാൽ കഷ്ടതകൾക്കു കുറെയെങ്കിലും ശമനം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളവരെയെല്ലാം സ്വദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിച്ചാലും മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ വിദേശികൾ വന്നു കഷ്ടതയനുഭവിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. അവിടെനിന്നു പാസ്സാകുന്നവർക്കു അവിടെത്തന്നെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കണം. ഇപ്പോൾ അമ്പലപ്പുഴ മുതലായ മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേയും മററും താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നിന്നാണ്

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

മൂവാററുപുഴ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിലെ ഉപാദ്ധ്യായന്മാർ അധികവും വന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഏതെങ്കിലും താലൂക്കിൽ യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ അയൽ താലൂക്കുകളിൽനിന്നു നിയമിച്ചാലും കുറെ ഭേദമുണ്ട്. ഒഴിവുദിവസങ്ങളിൽ അവർക്കു സ്വന്തം ഭവനങ്ങളിൽപോയി അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമല്ലോ. സ്വല്പശമ്പളക്കാരായ ഇവർ ദൂരസ്ഥിതമായ തങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബത്തിലെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു സഹായിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ബാലികാബാലന്മാരെ സമാധാനത്തോടെ അഭ്യസിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഇവർക്കു സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇവർക്ക് ഒരു മതിയായശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ചില ഉപാദ്ധ്യായമാരുടെ ഭർത്താക്കന്മാർ ഉപാദ്ധ്യായന്മാരായിരിക്കും. അവരെ രണ്ടുപേരേയും ഒരു ദേശത്തു വയ്ക്കുയാണ് നല്ലത്. രണ്ടുതരം സ്കൂളും ഒരിടത്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിനടുത്ത സ്ഥലത്തെ സ്കൂളിൽ വച്ചാലും മതി.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, with respect to the question raised by Mr. Stephenson, that is to say, if there are 200 teachers who are natives of the Muvattupuzha taluk and there is possibility only to appoint 100 teachers in that taluk, what is the Department to do—now, with respect to that question, Sir, I ask Mr. Stephenson whether the 100 of the eligible teachers are really appointed in Muvattupuzha. They are not. That is my complaint. With respect to my own taluk, I am in a position to assure the Director of Public Instruction that many of the teachers who are there are, in fact, outsiders. Therefore, the teachers who are in my taluk and the teachers who are transferred from my taluk under the orders cited by Mr. Stephenson have both been exiled from their native places and have to be re-transferred to their respective native villages. That is the gravamen of my complaint. I was speaking quite guardedly when I said that teachers ought to be employed at least in the taluks adjoining their native places or villages. Evidently, Mr. Stephenson, while he spoke, ignored that and cited a hypothetical case with regard to 200 teachers. Does the Director take care to see that the 100 teachers who can find room and who can be posted in their native places are really kept there? I may draw the attention of the House to the fact that teachers in heaps proceed to the Inspector of Schools and request him on bended knees that their grievances may be heard. It is an open question whether they get themselves even reflected upon the retina of the eye of the Inspector, for absolutely nothing is being done. I asked the Government how many applications are pending with the Inspector of Vernacular Schools. Absolutely no reply has been given. So I presume that there is a volume of complaint in regard to that matter. It is a legitimate complaint. Then incidentally the question of marriage was raised, I think, by my friend, Mr. Hoogewerf. I have one word regarding

that. For teachers receiving Rs. 14, how is it possible to marry a wife and decently maintain a family? It is the inability to marry that creates the rub in the rank and file of the teachers. How can they contemplate the question of marriage, in modern circumstances? (*Laughter.*) Oh! God! it is inconceivable in our civilization! It is very far from imagination. It is for this purpose that the teachers should be retained under the watching eyes of their relations so that they may not misbehave. So I am pressing the motion on a variety of grounds, some of which, I am sorry to say, I cannot describe in this House.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, there seems to be no complaint about the orders of Government in this matter. The Government are of the same opinion as the members who have spoken on this motion, namely, that as far as possible the teachers in the Vernacular schools should be employed in their own native places. As I said, the orders of Government are definite and explicit. The complaint is, as far as I can judge, that these orders are not being carried out. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai mentions that teachers are going in groups to the Inspector of Vernacular Schools either asking for transfers or for not being transferred. Sir, my office is not very far from the office of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools. I can only say that, if they get no redress from the Inspector of Vernacular Schools, it is quite open to them to come to me.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from Mr. Stephenson whether it is not against the disciplinary rules for them to represent their grievances personally before the Director of Public Instruction instead of to the immediate superior?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is quite open to a teacher to come to me if he does not get any redress from his immediate superiors.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know from Mr. Stephenson whether the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools now possess powers of transfer?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, they have.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask Mr. Stephenson whether he is aware that the Assistant Inspectors are now asked by the Inspector not to exercise these powers?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am not aware of that.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask Mr. Stephenson whether he will enquire as to why the Inspector asked the Assistant Inspectors not to exercise these powers?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think that that matter was brought to my notice before. There are certain cases where the Inspector of Vernacular Schools does make transfers which ordinarily lie within the powers of the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools. I think it is with the idea

[President.]

of consolidating the whole scheme of transfers and it only happens at the beginning of the year in order that there may not be a conflict between the transfers made by the Inspector and those made by the Assistant Inspectors. But I do not remember the details.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does the Director of Public Instruction realise that, if a teacher complains against the Inspector, he will be more or less a marked man and that his prospects will be ruined for life?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): If a man who has got a grievance is afraid to represent it to the proper authority he has little hope of getting it redressed.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Has Mr. Stephenson been aware that there are complaints about the transfers of teachers?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am aware of that now because I have heard of it in this House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I did not ask whether Mr. Stephenson *is* aware of it. I expressly asked Mr. Stephenson whether he *has been* aware of such complaints—that is, between the date of his taking charge as Director of Public Instruction and this day.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Individual representations have been made to me from teachers and their transfers are being enquired into.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Have any mistakes been rectified?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not remember the orders passed by me in individual cases. But everything will be done to see that Government orders have been carried out as far as possible.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Has Mr. Stephenson enquired into the circumstances of any of these transfers which were complained against?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes. If I get a statement from a teacher who is complaining against a transfer explaining the whole situation, I also get from the Inspector his explanation and from these statements I am able to form my own opinion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Has he sent for the complainants and asked them what their complaints were?

PRESIDENT: The facts will be stated in the complaint itself.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am asking whether any complainant was allowed to appear before the Director of Public Instruction to represent his case with regard to the transfer.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Any complainant is also in a position to appear before me.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has any man been allowed to see Mr. Stephenson with regard to a matter like this?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I daresay some have.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Has he corrected any case?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, I do not think I have.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether the transfers effected by the Inspector are always in accordance with the recommendations made by the Assistant Inspectors?

MR J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot say that. As a matter of fact, my impression was that the orders of Government in this matter were being carried out. I have not been a very long time in the Department and I have not investigated matters like this. In deference to the wishes of the House, I shall make an enquiry, call for the papers regarding applications for transfers and see to what extent the orders of Government have been carried out. With that assurance, I hope Mr. Narayana Pillai will withdraw his motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, in the light of the assurance given by Mr. Stephenson and in view of the fact that he happens to be new to the department, reserving the right of re-agitating the question, I withdraw the motion. (*Laughter.*)

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 211.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:—

211. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,551 under Inspectresses by Rs. 100.

Motion 212.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir I move:—

212. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 97,444 for controlling agencies by Rs. 100.

Sir, my object in bringing this motion before this House is to point out the unequal distribution of appointments in the Secondary Schools and the appointments made by the Inspector of English Schools. I shall point out how the non-Brahmins fare at the hands of the Inspector. It is

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

very glaring to see in the statistics the Brahmin preponderance. Anyone could see this from the statistics supplied to this House in answer to my interpellations. The total strength of graduate teachers and munshies in the English Schools, as it stood when the answer was given, is as follows.—

Brahmin graduate teachers		139;	Munshies	39;
Christian	,,	69;	,,	3;
Nayar	,,	25;	,,	15;
Other non-Brahmin Hindus		13;	,,	7;

We were under the impression that there were not many applicants from the non-Brahmin Communities for the posts in the Education Department. But from the answers given to some of the interpellations, I find the applications for the three years 1097, 1098 and 1099 were as below.

From	Brahmins	...	374;
,,	Nayars	...	320;
,,	Christians	...	298;
,,	Mahomedans	...	34;
,,	Ezhavas	...	72;
,,	Vellalas	...	28;
,,	Nadars	...	10 and so forth.

PRESIDENT. Are they graduate applicants ?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes; all of them are graduate applicants. The appointments given for the past three years were, in acting vacancies, Brahmins 28; Christians 10; Nayars 10; and other Hindus 4. Then, within the last three years the graduate teachers confirmed were, Brahmins 19; among them 8 foreigners being included; Christians 16; and Nayars 3. Out of these men who have been confirmed, we find that some of the eight foreigners who are Brahmins have put in only one year and two months' service; but the non-Brahmins who have been confirmed have put in a service ranging between two and ten years. One man is confirmed after a period of ten years and from these any one can understand that the non-Brahmin Hindus—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know what Mr. M. N. Pillai means by foreign Brahmins, whether it includes those imported from Tinnevelly or anywhere outside ?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): From anywhere outside Travancore.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does it include anyone living in the country for some years ?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It includes all those who are not born subjects of Her Highness the Maha Rani according to the definition supplied by Government.

PRESIDENT : He goes by the definition.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): From this one can understand that the non-Brahmin Hindus are the worst sufferers in the English School Department. I think the present Inspector of English Schools, Mr. A. Narayana Aiyar, is mainly responsible for this state of affairs. One of the many instances of his partiality is that his own son-in-law, who took his B. A. Degree this year, is posted in a permanent vacancy at his native place—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether appointments are made by the Inspector?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The recommendations for appointments are made by the Inspector.

PRESIDENT : Is it the Inspector's son-in-law that you mentioned?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes. He took his degree this year and is posted in a permanent vacancy at his native place in the Mavelikara school so that he may be confirmed a few months hence. This vacancy was brought about when Mr. John, the Assistant Inspector of Schools, Kottayam, was appointed as Headmaster.

PRESIDENT : He has not been posted as a permanent man.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I said he is in a permanent vacancy. The man who was there is appointed as Headmaster on probation at Muvattupuzha, and his lien was shifted to Mavelikara where the Inspector's son-in-law referred to above is posted. Again, one Mr. T. S. Narayana Aiyar, a native of Tenkasi, was newly appointed a few days ago in the S. M. V. School in a permanent vacancy overlooking the claims of the sons of the soil. I understand that these appointments have been made pending Government sanction. I can quote several other instances of glaring injustice done by the present Inspector. From the above facts one would think that this Inspector is there to provide appointments for his kith and kin and not for the proper management of secondary education. At this rate, there is no chance for Nayars and other non-Brahmin Hindus in the Education Department for another 25 or 30 years. When I asked Government whether they were aware that the non-Brahmin communities are placed in a disadvantageous position, the answer was that they were not aware. The total disregard shown to the claims of Travancoreans by the Inspector and giving appointments to foreign Brahmins, etc., deserve the immediate attention of Government. I would request the Government to make a thorough enquiry into the matter. Such an officer should be punished if he is found guilty for such communal partiality. Sir, if this state of affairs is to continue, there will be no peace in the country until matters are set right. I appeal to all the members to support my motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I heartily support Mr. M. N. Pillai's motion. I wanted not to make a speech on this subject as I have another in my name coming immediately afterwards. But the case

[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.]

brought forward by Mr. M. N. Pillai is a very serious one in that the Inspector has appointed his son-in-law who, I believe, hails from Palghat, to an appointment carrying with it about Rs. 50. I think there are some rules and notifications in regard to such matters. As this motion has been put forward now, it should be carefully enquired into and there should be an end to all this nepotism. I have heard it stated by responsible people who never think of saying an untruth, that there is a great deal of jobbery and nepotism going on in the department. Relations, friends, all sorts of people (*laughter*) are being appointed. I am not pleading for Christians or Nayars or Catholics or any other particular community. I am only pleading for justice and fairplay in this matter. All communities who are sons of the soil—subjects of Her Highness the Maha Rani—want equal opportunities and the Educational Department should not be a close preserve for any particular class of people. All those times are past now. I hope Mr. Stephenson will take up this question and bring the offenders to book, so that hereafter, at least, these things may not be repeated.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I agree with Mr. M. N. Pillai in thinking that it is time for Government to make some arrangement with regard to these communal complaints. From the figures quoted by him, it is clear that, in the Education Department, something is wrong and nepotism is rampant. There is a rule that foreigners should not be ordinarily appointed in the public service. We find that these people are appointed in the Education Department and I do not think that there were no applicants other than foreigners for these posts. With regard to the other departments also, there was this question of preferring a particular community, especially the Brahmins, and most of the members of this Council have suggested that a selection board or some other agency may be instituted for the purpose of avoiding these complaints. I have no doubt that, in some cases, in the Education Department, certain teachers are appointed who do not know the vernacular of the country. There is a rule that, up to the third form, all subjects except the English language should be taught in the vernacular. But in the case of teachers who do not know the vernacular of the country, on account of the nepotism practised by some of the officers in the Department the rule is not enforced. So it is high time to enquire into the matter and make some arrangement to avoid those complaints.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Sir, I also beg to support the motion. The question of appointments in the different Departments of the State is no doubt the burning question of the day. It is sure to engage the serious attention of the general public and it will continue to be the chief topic of much talk and criticism in the press, the platform and in this Council, until the Government will be pleased to solve that vital problem satisfactorily, giving each community its legitimate due.

Sir, the so-called unfavoured classes had no admission to some of the Departments in the State until two years ago when you opened the sealed doors of these Departments also to them, although as yet with no tangible profit. The case of the Department under consideration is not of that kind. Here on principle anyone was admitted provided he was duly qualified. Still the figures, as they were read out just now by Mr. M. N. Pillai, are so disappointing as to break the hearts of not only the members of these ill-treated communities but of every right-thinking and impartial man. The duty of this Department is to control not only the intellectual but also the moral education of the people of this country and they have to do it not by precepts alone but also by examples. But I am sorry to say that, in this part of their duty towards the public, the Department has not been very successful. The practice of some does not at all agree with the noble precepts they preach with regard to justice, equity, universal brotherhood, etc. The Maha Raja's College, which has existed for more than sixty years, has but recently taken on its staff one Catholic, through—as Mr. Hoogewerf said—the direct intervention of the present Dewan. Is it that the community had no qualified candidates or because no application was forthcoming? What seemed to us a great mystery was the oversight of the Director in not taking up the application of Dr. P. J. Thomas for consideration when appointments of Professors were made in the College. The nature and cause of the oversight has not been explained and in that unfortunate oversight Travancore had to lose the services of one of her brilliant sons, and a great injustice has been done to the community to which Dr. Thomas belongs. The appointments made, as Mr. M. N. Pillai showed, by the present Inspector of English Schools, tell their own tale. I believe it was in pursuance of the noble policy declared by the Dewan in the last Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, *viz.*, that—

> "The policy of Government is that all communities should be given equal opportunities and to remedy their grievances as early as possible. The question of representation of Roman Catholics in the public service will be specially noted."

I believe it was in pursuance of this noble policy that, when the Inspector of English Schools made his appointments in the beginning of this year, out of the 23 new appointments he made, one was reserved for a Catholic graduate. But, as usual, he took good care that the vacancy to which he was appointed was one of a very short duration while, as has been remarked by Mr. M. N. Pillai, a close relation of his was posted to a permanent vacancy. In spite of the high qualification the young man possessed, being a double second class graduate, and the excellent certificates he got from his Headmaster as to his character and teaching abilities, and also in spite of the fact that in that particular school at present there being no history graduate, history is taught by a mathematics graduate, this young man had to leave the department after a service of one month and five days.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): What is his name?

THE REV. FR KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Mr. Lenos from Shertallai. (Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: *"Hear, hear"*.)

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

Examples could be multiplied *ad nauseam*; but I do not want to do so. Sir, I think that it is the duty of the Government to haul up at once such an officer who has been so persistently working against the oft-repeated policy of Government and to make an example of him. The appointments made by him should be closely and carefully scrutinised by the Government and if he is really found delinquent he must be seriously taken to task and, if necessary, summarily dismissed. Only such stringent measures can have a salutary effect. I am sure only such a step will go a great length to arrive at the goal aimed at by Government.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനങ്ങൾ വർഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതപരമാണെന്നുള്ളതു നാടൊട്ടുക്കു പ്രസിദ്ധമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. സമഭാവനയോടുകൂടി ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനവിഷയത്തിൽ സ്വകൃത്യനിർവ്വഹണത്തിനു ഒരുക്കമില്ലാത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസിൽനിന്നു പിരിച്ചുവിടേണ്ടതു ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന്റെ ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്തകൃത്യമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങളെ ഓരോ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടും ഗവർമ്മെന്റ് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ മൗനം ദീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ ആശ്ചര്യാവഹം തന്നെ. ചില അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ചില ചില്ലറയായ പിശകുകൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കാണിച്ചു എന്നു വരാം. പിന്നെയും അതു തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അപ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സഭകളിൽവച്ചു പ്രതിനിധികൾ അതിനെ തുറന്നുപറകയും ചോദ്യശോധനയും മററും ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനെ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തുകയുംചെയ്യും. പിന്നെയും ഗവർമ്മെന്റുമൗനം ദീക്ഷിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അതുവളരെ കഷ്ടതരമായിരിക്കും. ഏററവും ധനവ്യയം ചെയ്തു നടത്തിവരുന്ന ഒരു വകുപ്പാണ് എഡ്യുക്കേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ്. ഉദ്യോഗവിഷയത്തിൽ ഓരോ വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കും ന്യായമായി കിട്ടാനുള്ളതു കിട്ടണമെന്നുപറയുമ്പോൾ അതൊരു വർഗ്ഗീയവഴക്കാണെന്നും രാജ്യത്തിനു ദോഷകരമാണെന്നും ചിലർ പറയുന്നുണ്ട്. മുക്കാൽ കോടിരൂപയോളം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളവും പടിയുമായിട്ടു രാജ്യത്തു ചിലവാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ൪൦ ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങുന്ന വിവിധവർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കു കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു ഹാനികൂടാതെ യോഗ്യതാനുസരണം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ് ന്യായം. അതിനെ വിസ്മരിച്ചു ചിലവർഗ്ഗങ്ങളോടു പക്ഷപാതമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന നയമാണ് പലഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും പ്രത്യേകം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും കണ്ടുവരുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ അതിനെ എത്രമാത്രം ആക്ഷേപിച്ചാലും

മതിയാകയില്ല. ന്യൂ-ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം ജനം ഉൾപ്പെട്ട ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഒരു വലിയ വിഭാഗമായ കത്തോലിക്കരുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിന്നും മലയാളംസ്കൂൾഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരായോ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് സ്കൂൾ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരായോ വല്ലവരുമുണ്ടോ എന്നൊരു ചോദ്യം നിയമസഭയിൽ ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചതിന് ഇല്ലെന്നു മറുപടിപറഞ്ഞു. കത്തോലിക്കരുടെയിടയിൽനിന്ന് ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്വകുപ്പിലും മലയാളം വകുപ്പിലും കൂടി എത്ര വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാരുണ്ടെന്നു ചോദിച്ചതിനു കത്തോലിക്കരുടെ വർഗ്ഗംതിരിച്ച കണക്ക് എടുത്തു പറയുവാൻ പ്രയാസമാണെന്നു ൻൻ തുലാത്തിലെ യോഗത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു മറുപടിപറഞ്ഞു. ഇവിടത്തെ സെൻസസ്സ് റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽഓരോ വർഗ്ഗക്കാരേയും പ്രത്യേകം തിരിച്ച കണക്കെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഇത്ര പ്രയാസമുള്ളതെന്നു വിചാരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. ഡയറക്ടർ തൻെറകീഴിലുള്ള രണ്ടു ശാഖയിലേയും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർക്ക് ഒരുത്തരവയച്ചാൽ കണക്ക് ഉടൻ വരും. മനസ്സുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഒരുപ്രയാസവുമില്ല. ഈ കണക്കുകൾ വരുമ്പോൾ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ നിയമനം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള അനീതി പ്രത്യക്ഷമാകുമെന്നുള്ള ഭയം കൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ കണക്കെടുക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞൊഴിഞ്ഞതെന്നേ ജനങ്ങൾ വിചാരിക്കൂ. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം വകുപ്പിൽ ധാരാളം പണം വ്യയംചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു ജനവിഭാഗമാണ് കത്തോലിക്കർ. അവക്ക് ഈ വകുപ്പിൽ പ്രവേശനം നൽകാത്തതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ പ്രജാസഭാകാലത്ത് ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ കത്തോലിക്കർക്കു തങ്ങളുടെ ജനസംഖ്യയ്ക്കോ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനോ അനുസരണമായി പ്രവേശനം നല്കീട്ടില്ലെന്നും ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നും പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിനു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ തന്നെ വേണ്ടുംവണ്ണം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാതെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു് ഒന്നും ചെയ്തുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഉദ്യോഗദാനവിഷയത്തിൽ വർഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതം കാണിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെയെല്ലാം പിരിച്ചുവിടണം. അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവർ യോഗ്യന്മാരല്ലെന്നു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു സമ്മതിച്ചേ കഴിയൂ. അവർ ആരെല്ലാം എന്നു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനുതന്നെ അറിയാം. ചോദ്യങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടും മററും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടും ഉണ്ട്. എല്ലാ വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളേയും സമഭാവനയോടുകൂടി വിചാരിച്ച് ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനവിഷയത്തിലും മററ് ഉദ്യോഗകൃത്യങ്ങളിലും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നവരായിരിക്കണം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറധികൃതന്മാരായിരിക്കാൻ. ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും സഹകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിചാരം. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അകൃത്യങ്ങളെ ഗൌനിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ ജനസമുദായ

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

ത്തിന്നു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെമേൽ വലുതായ അതൃപ്തിയും സങ്കടവും ഉണ്ടാകും. ഓരോരുത്തക്കുമെന്നപോലെ ഓരോ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്നും നീതിയും ധമ്മവുമാണ് വാസ്തവമായ ഉയച്ചയ്ക്കു കാരണമായിട്ടുള്ളത്. നീതിയേയും ധമ്മത്തേയും വിഗണിച്ചു പ്രവൎത്തിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ മേലാൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്നുതന്നെ അപകർഷം വരാതിരിക്കയില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ നീതിയും ധമ്മവും അനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവൎത്തിക്കാത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ശാസിച്ചും ശിക്ഷിച്ചും ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ് രാജ്യത്തിന്നത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇതു ഒരു വർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെ കാര്യമല്ല. ഒരു വർഗ്ഗത്തോടു ചെയ്യുന്ന പക്ഷപാതത്തിന്റെയും അനീതിയുടേയും ഫലം രാജ്യത്തിന്നു പൊതുവിൽ കളങ്കം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിൽ രാജ്യവാസികൾ വർഗ്ഗഭേദമെന്യേ ശ്രദ്ധയുള്ളവരായിരിക്കണം. എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനങ്ങളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കണ്ടുവരുന്ന ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ മേലും കാണാൻ ഇടവരാതെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ വിരമിക്കുന്നു

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Sir, I also rise to give expression of the surprise I feel at the figures collected and quoted by my friend, Mr. M. N. Pillai, in the matter of the appointment of teachers. More than in anything else there is the need for suitable appointments in the Department of Education conforming to the nature of the students. For, if a foreigner is imported and the students are committed to his care, the sort of interest that is likely to be taken with respect to the students under his care may be better imagined than described. But in the case of persons who are natives of the State, it is a proved fact more or less that the interest that the teacher takes is of a germane and kindly variety. The tendency of appointing teachers as far as possible from outside has been growing as may be seen from the figures supplied by Mr. M. N. Pillai. One aspect of the present-day tendency in the Education Department that one may notice is the spirit of aloofness that the teacher feels towards his students except in very rare instances, as I have been able to mark in the case of my friend Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar who seeks to live and move with the students and loves them. But such instances are few and far between even in the College. In the case of teachers in the Middle Schools and High Schools, there seems to prevail between the students and the teachers an atmosphere of estrangement. This tendency is only emphasised by the importation of teachers from abroad. Here then is a growing evil. In addition to this the alarming preponderance of teachers from one particular community tells its own tale. My friends on this side have been pressing it upon the attention of Government to make an example of somebody. I do not think that the Government will make an example

of anybody, and even a sense of disapproval if entertained by Government will not be let known to the public.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If the officer is suspended for misbehaviour?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very sorry to answer him. No officer has hitherto been suspended, nor, even censured for the offence of communal partiality in appointments. Some sort of explanation will be given in an *ex parte* fashion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Do you wish to continue it?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Far from it. The whole thing would be dealt with in a wishy-washy way. An explanation must be elicited and it must be placed before the House so that the House may have an opportunity to consider the question upon the merits of the explanation. It is therefore that I am submitting—at least let us have the satisfaction of having the explanation before the extreme step of making an example.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ നാരായണപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെയുള്ള ആശ്ചര്യം എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം നിയമനങ്ങളിലുള്ള ഇത്തരം കഥകൾ എനിക്കു മുമ്പുതന്നെ ധാരാളമായി അറിയാമായിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ അറിയാവുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അതിനെ ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനായിട്ടു പല ചോദ്യങ്ങളും ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ തന്നെ ചോദിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു പല സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെന്റുകളും കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദ്യരൂപേണ ചോദിക്കുന്നത് അതിനെ പറ്റി ഗവർമ്മെന്റു വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ നടത്തുമെന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്താലാണ്. എന്നാൽ അതിന്മേൽ ഗവർമ്മെന്റു യാതൊരു നടപടിയും നടത്തീട്ടില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് പിന്നീടു ഞാൻ തന്നെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം അയയ്ക്കാൻ ഇടയായി. അതായത് ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ അതിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ സ്വജാതീയരെ മുഴുവനുമോ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ആളുകളെയോ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനു ബോദ്ധ്യം വരുന്നതായാൽ ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ കഠിനമായി ശിക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നായിരുന്നു എന്റെ പ്രമേയം. ആ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെന്റു സ്വീകരിക്കാതെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതിലേക്ക് എനിക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള എഴുത്തു ഇങ്ങനെയാണ്.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

"I am directed to inform you that your resolution regarding the punishment of officers making appointments exclusively from their own community has been disallowed by the President under Rule 35 (*b*) of the Legislative Council Rules".

PRESIDENT: You are referring to the disallowance of a resolution by the President. His decisions in regard to the admission of resolutions should not be questioned in this House.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): പ്രസിഡന്റിന്റെ തീരുമാനത്തെപ്പററി ഞാൻ യാതൊന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. സംഗതിയുടെ പരമാർത്ഥത്തെ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു എന്നുമാത്രമെയുള്ളു.

PRESIDENT; You may move in the matter elsewhere if you feel dissatisfied.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികൾ ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നാൽ അതിന്മേൽ നടപടി നടത്തേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അങ്ങനെ നടപടി നടത്താതിരിക്കുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിലാണ് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങൾ അയയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും അതിന്മേൽ നടപടി നടത്തണമെന്നു ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനോടാവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങൾ അയയ്ക്കാൻ ഇടയാക്കാത്തവിധം പബ്ലിക്കസർവീസിന്റെ നിലയെ പരിപാലിച്ചുപോരേണ്ടതു ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന്റെ കടമയാണ്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളമുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എൻ. പിള്ള പറയുന്നതിനു മുമ്പുതന്നെ എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങളുടെ കുട്ടികളെ നാട്ടുഭാഷ അറിയാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാർ പഠിപ്പിച്ചാൽ അവർ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ എത്രത്തോളം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുമെന്നുള്ളത് ആർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണ. നാട്ടുഭാഷ അറിയാൻപാടില്ലാത്തവരെ പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കുട്ടികൾ വിഷമിച്ചു പോകാതെ തരമില്ല. മൂന്നാം ഫാറംവരെ നാട്ടുഭാഷ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തി പഠിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നാണ് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. നാട്ടുഭാഷ അറിയാൻ പാടില്ലാതെ ആ ക്ലാസ്സുകളിലെ വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാർ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽതന്നെ പഠിപ്പിച്ചുതുടങ്ങിയാൽ അവർ എന്തുചെയ്യുമെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. അവർ എങ്ങനെ പഠിക്കുമെന്നും അവർക്ക് എങ്ങനെ ക്ലാസ്സുകയററങ്ങൾ കിട്ടുമെന്നും അറിയുന്നില്ല. ഈ സംഗതികളെപ്പററി അശേഷം ആലോചിക്കാതെയാണ് പുറമെ നിന്നു ആളുകളെ വരുത്തുന്നതും അവർക്കു ൭൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതും. ഈ

കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഞാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എൻ. പിള്ളയുടെ മോഷണോട് പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I never wanted to speak on this motion. But when I got the surprising figures about the appointments in the Education Department as revealed by the statistics collected by Mr. M. N. Pillai, I thought it my duty to join the chorus with the members on this side of the House. As has been pointed out by the previous speakers, there has been an undue preference of one community in the matter of appointments in this Department and my wonder is that such things are being allowed under the control of a European head of the Department. I was under the impression that things were going on much better under the control of the European Directors of Education from Dr. Mitchell downwards. But I am sorry to say that things have been allowed to drift by the later Directors of Public Instruction. So far as the present Director of Public Instruction is concerned, he said that he was going to study this subject and that he would pay his special attention in regard to this matter, as in other respects. I hope that he will do justice to all the communities irrespective of caste or creed. Sir, in this respect, I have only to add a word on behalf of the Catholic community. As the figures are made available with regard to this community, I think that the House is satisfied with the nature of the representation that the community is getting very poor in the English School Department as in other departments. I hope the attention of the present Director of Public Instruction and the Government will be specially directed to the need for the appointment of more members of that community.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): The attention of Government has been drawn to this particular subject.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot hear.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): This matter has been repeatedly brought to the attention of Government. The question of communal representation in public service has become a matter that is seriously engaging the attention of the Travancore public. We have a good number of communities. There was good understanding between communities themselves. They were moving and working very harmoniously. But difference and misunderstandings have begun to cloud this good relationship over the distribution of official loaves and fishes. They must not be ignored. But they must be considered, and proper remedies must be applied and proper agencies used for restoring lost harmony between the communities. I would again draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the different communities are clamouring for communal representation in the service and that something should be done immediately to put their desire into operation. We are at present dealing with the Education Department and the educational authorities

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

seem to have made "അക്ഷരം വിപ്രഹസ്തേന" their motto. That seems to be the motto which they hold in the matter of appointments. I do not know in which age "നീതിസാരം" was composed in which it is stated "അക്ഷരം വിപ്രഹസ്തേന." The meaning is that from Brahmins alone should knowledge be acquired. I do not know how many centuries have passed since that was written. But even to-day our educational authorities seem to follow that as their motto. As my friend Mr. Nidiry pointed out, I do not know why so much injustice should have been tolerated in a department which is presided over by a European who cannot be said to have caste inclinations. If European heads of departments are to allow such things to be committed by their subordinates, I do not know how matters will be going on in other departments where persons belonging to one or other of the communities are holding charge of the administration. I would also say that Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli did positive disservice to poor Mr. Lenos although the name was mentioned by Fr. Vettikkapalli in answer to a question that was put to him. It would have been better for him not to have mentioned names. Since his name has been mentioned, I will also say a word about him. He is a poor Catholic of Shertallai. He is a double second class graduate. It was I who took him to Mr. Narayana Aiyar to get him a post. The Inspector was good enough to give him an acting vacancy of one month and seven days whereas he found a permanent vacancy for his own son-in-law. I am afraid that things like that, although we are ashamed to say in open Council, cannot but provoke indignation. As a matter of fact, we are very much ashamed to get up in this House to speak so much about official loaves and fishes. But when so much injustice is done, I do not know how it is possible for us to remain silent. I think that something should be done immediately so that communal representation which is demanded by the public may be brought into effect and things about which we are reluctant to speak may not be forced again from us.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, there is a good deal of accusation against officers who have any patronage worth the name and the difficulties have been enhanced by the circumstance that there are communities, in spite of all professions of cosmopolitanism, which care more for themselves—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the Nedumangad Munsiff's Court? (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: What is the relevancy of that question?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I must tell him that Nedumangad is not a community but a taluk. (*Laughter.*) Even to-day, as on previous occasions, we have heard the

members on this side of the House referring to the circumstance that, when a European is at the head of any department, better justice may be expected. I am one of those who think that Europeans will be just officers. But frequent repetition of this fact engenders a doubt in the minds of all people whether, if a department is presided over by a Travancorean or other Indian, there would not be that confidence but a lurking fear that even justice might not be dispensed. The various communities ask for privileges and rights for themselves. So far as I am able to see, the man who agitates that he is a Brahmin or a Christian or a Nayar stands at the centre of a system of concentric circles. He first of all claims to be an Indian; then a South Indian; then a Travancorean; and then a Brahmin or a non-Brahmin. If a Brahmin the question is whether he is a Nambudiri or a Tamil Brahmin; and if a non-Brahmin, a Nayar or Ezhava and so forth; if a Christian, European or Indian, Protestant, Catholic or Jacobite, and so on. So that, whenever it suits any man to ask for a privilege, it is very easy to get at the centre of one of these circles. I do not blame anybody for that. It is more or less natural and people cannot shake away very easily the feeling regarding the interests of their communities. I have heard of an instance several years ago in which a gentleman of high educational qualifications went to the Dewan and told him, when all other arguments failed, that he was an Unni Brahmin. Poor man, he is dead now. That typifies the sort of attempt made.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Do not so many Brahmins get into the department as a matter of usual course?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am coming to that. The word "വർഗ്ഗീയമത്സരം"—communal strife—is in all the newspapers. And there is much of the commodity in the land. We find various officers are being condemned for partiality. But, however much we may strain our memory, we cannot alight upon an instance in which anybody stood up and made a powerful speech saying that when a member of a particular community was tried as the head of a department he did his work so well that no community had any cause to blame. I can remember several Dewans for the last 25 or 30 years and not a single Dewan escaped condemnation whether he was a foreigner or a Travancorean. I also remember, when I was a boy, of having read a newspaper in which it was said that, because one Dewan did not retire in time, a tiger which paid a surprise visit to Trivandrum was deputed by the Almighty to remove him from the scene. I am referring to these things to show that there is so much complaint about these things. Whatever may be our principle, I submit that, when efficiency is the only test, communal representation should be in the background.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether he thinks that efficiency could be found only on the other side of the *ghats*?

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not say that. Whatever view one may hold with regard to efficiency, the matter has reached a crisis, so that some steps *are* absolutely necessary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I should like to know whether Mr. Velu Pillai speaks for or against the motion. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want to say anything with regard to that. (*Laughter.*) One difficulty that stares us in the face is that these officers who want to abuse the patronage vested in them are able to furnish us clipped information which is always at the tip of their fingers and pens. Government are not taking sufficient care to probe into the disease and find out the actual causes, possibly because they may not have adequate time. But the matter being so difficult, they ought to change their angle of vision. Although it may be troublesome, that has to be done. Clear rules should be laid down in regard to the entertainment of people in service, paying due respect to the claims of particular communities—I do not mean the numerical strength alone. It is for the House to consider what rules should be laid down with regard to entertainment in the service. It is for the House to consider what are the principles to be adopted and, when once the principle is adopted, to see that those principles are acted upon. There is nothing so bad in law as light punishment. Light punishment only creates immunity from fear. If an officer offends against a rule which results in injustice and if the allegations made may be proved with the help of sufficient evidence, that officer must be severely and rigorously punished.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ സ്വന്തജാതിക്കാരെ തന്നെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷവും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനെപ്പററി കൌൺസിലിൽ ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടിയ സ്റേറ്റുമെൻറുകൾ മിസ്റ്റർ വേലുപ്പിള്ള കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I have seen it, and that is the reason why I am supporting the motion, (*laughter*) because from the facts furnished to us we find that officers belonging to various communities have been accused. Now I may remind the House of a famous saying of Oliver Cromwell that, if some are killed in battle at the proper time, the necessity may be avoided of killing a great many more. In the same manner if you find any officer guilty of nepotism or corruption or that most dangerous form of official corruption, *viz.*, communal partiality, we should deal with him in such a way that the example will be remembered for years to come,

and that nobody will have the nerve to follow in the footsteps of the offender. With these words, I support the motion, because it involves the general principle of appointments.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, complaints about the appointments in the Education Department were made during the general discussion of the budget and there have also been complaints this morning about them. As I said yesterday, I have prepared a statement dealing with English education, and as the matter requires to be fully explained, I seek the permission of the Chair to take a little more time than the allotted ten minutes within which I cannot deal with the subject.

PRESIDENT: You may have more than ten minutes. As Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai said, the matter seems to have reached a crisis and more light has to be thrown upon it.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The main complaints seem to be that there is a preponderance of Brahmins in the Education Department. We are left to infer that this is unjustifiable and arises in a measure from the fact that the two Inspectors of Schools are Brahmins and that the Director of Public Instruction, although not a Brahmin, is either too busy or too supine to be able to control them.

As to the fact that there is a preponderance of Brahmins in the Department, there is no question; and the only matter to be dealt with is whether this preponderance is justifiable or not.

I would first of all point out that it is not alleged, nor, as far as I know, even hinted at, that Brahmin teachers or Inspectors are as a class incompetent or that the mere fact of their being Brahmins disqualifies them in any way for service in the Education Department.

It is perhaps worthwhile to consider for a minute the principle according to which appointments to such important posts as teachers' and Inspectors' posts should be made. In a homogeneous community, the answer to that question is simple, namely that for such work with its truly tremendous responsibility only the very best men available should be appointed.

If on any grounds, communal, religious or social, that principle is departed from, the results cannot but fail to be bad, especially in this country where, despite our relatively high standing as regards education in India, much leeway has still to be made up if we are to align ourselves with other nations in these matters.

Then again, what is the complaint of the non-Brahmin communities as regards appointments? What is it that they are asking for—fair-play or privileges?

Fairplay they are entitled to and should get; and I, for one, as long as I hold the post I now hold, shall endeavour to see that they do get it.

I have already indicated what results must follow if pervileges are given to other communities on a class basis or on any other basis than fitness only.

[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

Since I became Ag. Director of Public Instruction, the question of the Brahmin element in the Departmemt has cropped up more than once and I must say that at first sight the figures obtained in connection with questions in this Council did appear rather startling, I was in the happy position of having had no responsibility in the matter and I could view the question without partiality one way or the other. I was very busy; but the matter interested me and I began a little investigation with the idea of finding what, if appointments were made on grounds of fitness alone, the proportion of Brahmins to non-Brahmins was likely to be.

The figures I will now give relate to the last three years:—

1.	Percentage of Brahmins in the State according to the last census ...	1·14
2.	Percentage of Brahmins obtaining Government Scholarships of Rs. 5 per mensem tenable in the Fourth Form of High Schools ...	10·9
3.	Percentage of Brahmins amongst those who secured School Leaving Certificates eligible for College admission ...	16·5
4.	Percentage of Brahmins obtaining Government Scholarships of Rs. 10 per mensem tenable in Intermediate classes in colleges ...	22·0
5.	Percentage of Brahmins passing the Intermediate examination (both parts) from H. H. The Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum (Group I alone 63·3 per cent) ...	45·1
6.	Percentage of Brahmins obtaining Government Scholarships of Rs. 15 per mensem tenable in the B. A Pass and Honors Classes ...	54·5
7.	Percentage of Brahmins passing the B. A. Degree Examination (both parts) from H. H. The Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum ...	31·1
	Group I alone ...	58·5
	Group II (*a*) alone ...	42·9
	Group II (*b*) alone ...	48·8
8.	Percentage of Brahmins passing the B. A. (Honors) Degree Examination from H. H. The Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum ...	42·4

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether he has got the percentage for other communities?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No. They must obviously be much less.

Turning to the *Civil List*, it is found that amongst Headmasters of High Schools and the Provincial Staff of teachers (all Graduates) 52 per cent. are Brahmins and amongst acting teachers the percentage is 54 per cent.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Without having the figures in respect of other communities, how is it possible to institute a comparison?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am dealing with the *percentages* of Brahmins with regard to eligibility for appointments and with regard to appointments.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is it your attempt to show that the Brahmins are intellectually superior?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not attempt to show anything. I simply give the figures.

Turning to the *Civil List*, it is found that, amongst Headmasters of High Schools and the Provincial Staff of teachers (all Graduates) 52 per cent. are Brahmins and amongst acting teachers 54 per cent. At first sight, these percentages seem a little higher perhaps than the figures for successes amongst Brahmins would warrant, but it is necessary to remember that, just as the percentage of Brahmins rises with the standard of the examination, so we may expect that, amongst the best graduates, the percentage of Brahmins will be higher than it is amongst all graduates taken together.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know the relevancy of these figures to the question under discussion?

PRESIDENT: If they are not relevant, it is for me to question.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai in his speech during the general discussion in the Budget said, with regard to the Education Department:

"Whatever may have been the case at one time, it cannot now be contended with any show of reason that it is due to want of applicants from other communities".

I can, however, assure him that, if there is any complaint regarding the appointments of non-Brahmins in recent years, the dearth of suitable applicants from amongst non-Brahmins was one considerable factor in determining the proportion of non-Brahmins appointed. I will deal with this point later.

I would also point out that it is only lately that non-Brahmins have secured the minimum qualifications for appointments in the Department in fair numbers and that the Brahmins now in the Department were many of them appointed years ago when qualified men from other communities were not available.

It will not, I suppose, be contended that the Brahmins already in the service should be disbanded in order to make room for non-Brahmins who have now become eligible for appointment; and as the number of permanent appointments made in the Department in one year is very small, it will inevitably take some time before the Brahmin preponderance can be reduced.

Whilst I am dealing with this question, I should like to give ther facts for the information of the Council in order that the existing situation may be better understood.

[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

In dealing with the English School branch, I would first of all point out that Mr. Narayana Aiyar has been Inspector of Schools since 1st Kumbham 1098 only. For twelve years—

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether he was not acting on one or two occasions as Inspector before 1098?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am just coming to that.

For twelve years before that, the office was held by Mr. Pryde, except for sixteen months when Mr. Narayana Aiyar acted for him.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many appointments he made during that time?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am just coming to that.

As regards the appointment of teachers, he can appoint only Drawing and Drill-masters, Munshies, clerks and peons, whose pay does not exceed Rs. 40. Since he took charge, only 3·4 per cent of the appointments have been made directly by him.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the number of appointments he made?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have got that number also. I am coming to it.

Undergraduate teachers and Munshies are appointed by the Director of Public Instruction and the appointments of Graduate teachers, Inspectors, and Headmasters are made by Government on the recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know on what basis he makes the recommendations?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Who? I?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I mean the Director.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): To Government?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes. Has the Inspector anything to do with the appointments?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The Inspector recommends all appointments in the English schools.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In how many cases has the Director departed from the recommendation of the Inspector?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot say now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Approximately?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There is no use in giving approximate figures. If I give figures, at all they must be exact figures.

With regard to these appointments, the Inspector makes recommendations of course; but as regards the actual appointments, any blame with regard to them has to be shared by the Director and by Government.

In 1088, by order of Government graduates alone were declared eligible for appointments in English schools down to the lowest class.

Graduates were not, however, available in Travancore in sufficient numbers; and, for a period of one or two years, places had to be filled temporarily by undergraduates. In 1088, Dr. Bishop reported as follows:

"It must be confessed that graduates did not come forward to the extent that was expected and desired; a large number, even after applying for appointment, withdrew in many cases even after their appointments were sanctioned."

I understand that there are now in the Department 30 Brahmin graduates from outside Travancore who joined service here in 1088 and 1089.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many of them were confirmed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): These relate to appointments in 1088 and 1089. They have all been confirmed long ago.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many acting men are there in the Department?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There are about 50 persons among graduates—I cannot guarantee the figures—and 30 or 40 amongst undergraduates.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Of the acting men, may I know how many foreign Brahmins there are?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know. I do not think there are very many.

These 30 graduates were appointed, because of the dearth of other applicants.

Even during the period 1919-1922, the local supply of graduates was not sufficient to meet the demands of the Department and every Travancore graduate who then applied for a post was appointed irrespective of his community, capacity or the optional subject studied by him at College.

As a temporary measure, also persons who had only passed one branch of the B. A degree examination were appointed to teach higher forms.

To attract graduates, advertisements had to be published in the local papers and in Madras and pay higher than the usual minimum

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

offered to some non-Travancoreans, in consideration of their higher qualifications. If, as a result of these efforts, some of those appointed were Brahmins, the Department cannot well be blamed for that.

Again too, Brahmins have always taken to the teaching profession more readily and willingly than the members of other communities amongst whom the educational service was not particularly popular.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether he is aware that, during the time of Dr. Harvey and Mr. Ross, a large proportion of the College staff—professorial and other teaching staff—was composed of Nayars, Christians and other non-Brahmins?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I was not aware of that. I will take Mr. Hoogewerf's word upon it.

PRESIDENT: He has told you, Mr. Hoogewerf, that, ever since 1922, graduates from all communities irrespective of caste or creed have been entertained.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is only now when chances of entering other departments are much less than they were that they apply in large number to us. Even during the last two years, 1098 and 1099, 23 graduates who were offered appointment in the Education Department, declined the offer, failed to reply to our letters, left after a short period or resigned their permanent appointments in the Department.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many Nayars there are in the Science College?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am now discussing the English schools, and when we come to discuss the Science College, I shall be very pleased to give Mr. M. N. Pillai the information that he wants.

Of the 23 graduates referred to above, 3 were Brahmins and 20 non-Brahmins.

For many years then, the Department needed graduates and had great difficulty in obtaining them. We had to take what we could get. As a result, we have at present in the department a marked preponderance of History graduates. Now that graduates in Mathematics and Science are available, they receive first consideration; and for some years to come, the majority of our appointments must be from amongst such men.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): How long is it since the Department felt that Travancoreans were becoming available?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Last year and this year, *i.e.*, 1923 and 1924.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*); Is it not a fact that, in the year 1097, there were 147 Nayar applicants, 119 Christian applicants, 10 Mahomedan applicants 15 Ambalavasi applicants, and so on?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): May be.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then why were no non-Brahmins selected from these applicants?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Any question Mr. M. N. Pillai wishes to ask, I shall be very glad to answer after finishing my speech.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wanted the information from the Government regarding these applications and I got it.

PRESIDENT: What is it that you want, Mr. M. N. Pillai?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wanted to point out that there were many applicants three years ago.

PRESIDENT: In 1097?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Stephenson is referring to the number of graduate applicants.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Thodupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Is he sure that all the applications received are filed? Does he know that some of the applications are not filed in time?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Every application received is as a rule filed. It is not a question which I can answer unless I see the file.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I know whether there is any record in the office of the Director to show the number of applications received by the Inspector direct?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have all the information which is in the hands of Government.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Are these applications generally forwarded by the Inspector to the Director with regard to the appointments that have been made by him?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): With regard to the appointments I have made or recommended to the Government, I consulted Mr Narayana Aiyar before I made my recommendations. I had the applications before me.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Is there any rule that all the applications should be sent to the Director?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There is no rule that all the applications should be sent to the Director; but when the Inspector makes a recommendation, as a rule the applications are also sent to the Director.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was Dr. Thomas's application so filed?

[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, it was filed. I may just say a word about that. Dr. Thomas applied for a place in the History Department about a year before a vacancy arose. In the interval his application was mislaid and when the vacancy arose he was away and it was lost sight of.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Whose fault is it that the application of a distinguished graduate was mislaid?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It did not happen in my time. It is difficult for me to apportion the blame now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Department make an enquiry?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, I can do that.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What is the basis of the statement that the Brahmins take up appointments more willingly in the Department, and, that, with others, the Department is not popular?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The basis of the statement is the figures which I have given.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is he not aware that in the Vernacular schools there are more non-Brahmins than Brahmins?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is true. It is with the English schools that I am particularly dealing at present. The proportion of Brahmin applicants is getting less and less. About applicants for employment in Vernacular schools, I am not concerned now.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it not because they found it hopeless to get into the English schools that they gave up the idea?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know that. I should like to give some more figures in regard to Mathematics and Science graduates. The needs of the Mathematics and Science classes are now met partly by the appointment of graduates in these subjects in training and other vacancies.

For such acting posts in June this year, 5 amongst the applicants were Brahmins and 45 non-Brahmins; in 1098 the figures were 62 Brahmins and 40 non-Brahmins.

Also, of the total number who passed their B. A. Degree Examination in Mathematics or Science from the Maha Raja's College, 58·6 per cent. in 1922, 45·5 per cent. in 1923, and 57·1 per cent. in 1924 were Brahmins.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): പല സമുദായങ്ങളിൽ പെട്ട ആളുകളിൽ നിന്നും അപേക്ഷകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ, സർക്കാർ സർവീസിൽ തക്കതായ പ്രോത്സാഹനം ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാത്ത ജനവിഭാഗത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവരുടെ അപേക്ഷകളെ പ്രത്യേകം ഗൌനിക്കാറുണ്ടോ ?

PRESIDENT: The question is, if there are applications from members of different communities, whether you prefer applicants from communities which are least represented in the service.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is a little difficult to answer that. If there is nothing to distinguish between two men of equal qualifications, one of whom is a Brahmin and the other a non-Brahmin, the latter is preferred.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how he distinguishes the efficiency of the two?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There are various ways in which you can distinguish. You can distinguish between an Honors man and a Pass man, a first class man and a second class man and a third class man.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there no men who have passed in the third class entertained in the educational service when there were first class and second class men available?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know to what appointment Mr. M. N. Pillai refers. It was not in my period.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are there not instances in which an Honors graduate has been repelled and an ordinary graduate appointed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, there is one such instance. I know the appointment to which Mr. P.K. Narayana Pillai refers. I do not want to give a detailed explanation in regard to that just now. It is the subject of a separate motion which is to come up hereafter. If Mr. Narayana Pillai raises it then, I shall deal with it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): All that I wanted to ascertain was whether there are not instances of that kind?

PRESIDENT: He promises to explain it when the motion is dealt with.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know who is the officer that chooses the candidates for appointments and who is the officer responsible for making the recommendation?

PRESIDENT: The initial recommendation is made by the Inspector who forwards the same to the Director. The Director makes

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his own recommendation and forwards it to Government. If necessary, Government call for further information from the Director.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): As graduates of all kinds are now available, the Department is now in a position to choose men for appointments and it is a sound principle to choose the best, Honours men in preference to Pass men or first class men in preference to third class men. Amongst applicants with the Honours degree or first and second classes in the B. A. Pass degree examination, the percentage of Brahmins in 1099 was 58 per cent. and in 1098, 67 per cent.

Similarly, of the total number of students who graduated in the first and second classes with Mathematics or Science as their optional subject from the Maha Raja's College 64·3 per cent. in 1922, 66·7 per cent. in 1923 and 75 per cent. in 1924 were Brahmins.

If the point at issue is recent appointments, then I may state that during the last two years 11 graduates (6 Brahmins and 5 non-Brahmins), and 26 under-graduates (16 Brahmins and 10 non-Brahmins) have been confirmed and all of them had had long acting service ranging from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ years in the case of graduates and from $1\frac{1}{3}$ years to 6 years in the case of undergraduates. The teachers with the longest acting service were recommended.

As regards acting service, the Education Department is in a peculiar position.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether there are graduates still acting for four and five years in English Schools?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am afraid there are graduates who have a fairly long acting service.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether they were not recommended for confirmation?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot say that definitely.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether they are Brahmins or non-Brahmins.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Judging from the figures I have given, I think they must be mainly Brahmins.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is it not a fact that men with shorter service were confirmed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is not a fact.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not a fact that foreigners who have put in only 1 year and 2 months' service were confirmed? Here is the statement and I shall read it. Mr. S. K. Sankara Aiyar—

Brahmin—non-Travancorean—History—B. A. Pass course—service 2 years and 3 months.

And then, Mr. V. Raghava Aiyangar—non-Travancorean—History—Second class—2 years and 2 months.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): These appointments relate to the time when a Travancorean was not obtainable and we had to invite Brahmins from outside.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But some of these men were made permanent although they have put in only one year and 2 months' service as for example Mr. P. G Sundram, non-Travancorean, confirmed after a service of 1 year and 2 months.

PRESIDENT: What is the subject, please?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Mathematics.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): In what branch of the Department is he employed as a teacher?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In the English school branch. Mr. C. V. Subbarama Aiyar, Mathematics; Mr. V. D. Sundararajan, Mathematics III class, 1 year and 2 months' service,—these appointments were made after 1097.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am not able to grasp what Mr. M. N. Pillai's question is.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know from Mr. Stephenson whether he is dealing with appointments which are within his gift or within the gift of the Inspector.

PRESIDENT: He is dealing with appointments within the gift of Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In that case, I rise to a point of order, because the motion now brought forward is for reducing the allotment of the Controlling Agencies in English Schools. My interpretation of it is—I submit it to your ruling—that, if the appointments are not within the gift of the Controlling Officer, this is not the time for discussing that question. It must come later on under the general motion tabled by Mr. Madhava Variar, to reduce the total allotment under Demand XII.

PRESIDENT: I do not think it is out of order. It is a general discussion of policy and it need not necessarily be confined to appointments by the Controlling Agency.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): As regards acting service, the Education Department is in a peculiar position, in that every year there are acting vacancies for long periods on account of the deputation of teachers for training or to other branches of the Department. In such vacancies there are now 43 graduates and 36 undergraduates. In order to secure good men for these vacancies, it is necessary that it should be clearly recognised that acting service of this character will be regarded as a strong claim for appointment when posts become permanently vacant.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is the Director of Public Instruction aware that there is a practice among these officers that, when acting vacancies arise, they put in their friends quietly without anybody else knowing, and then confirm them on the ground of their acting in the appointments.

PRESIDENT: Acting appointments receive the careful scrutiny of the Director and also require the sanction of higher authorities in certain cases.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What I want to bring to his notice is that they are put in to act without anybody else knowing it, and then confirmed on that score.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether the acting appointments are advertised?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): They are not advertised in newspapers.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): And so, the officer concerned can appoint any one secretly.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Mr. Narayana Aiyar, as has already been pointed out, cannot make any appointments. Since Mr. Narayana Aiyar assumed charge in Kumbham 1098, he has appointed or recommended for appointment 52 graduates—24 Brahmins and 28 non-Brahmins. Twenty-three of these, 12 Brahmins, and 11 non-Brahmins had 'acted' during the time of his predecessor, and of the 29 remaining, who were first introduced into the Department on his initiative, 12 are Brahmins and 17 non-Brahmins.

Amongst the applicants to him for first appointment, all non-Brahmin Literature Honours men, and first and second class Pass B. A's in Mathematics or Science, were offered posts, but some declined the offer. Some Brahmin Honours men and second class B. A's were not offered appointment. One third class non-Brahmin was appointed and no third class Brahmin. Of History graduates, 2 non-Brahmins were appointed because of their having obtained second classes in English and one Brahmin third class graduate was appointed because he belonged to a backward class among Brahmins.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know what he means by backward class among the Brahmins?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sivalli Brahmins. That is his community anyhow.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What is meant by saying 'backward' there?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know myself. But I took Mr. Narayana Aiyar's words.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether Visvakarma Brahmins come under this category? (*Laughter.*)

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am only dealing with this particular caste.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am only suggesting another.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): When I get an application from that community, I will decide that case and not now (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sivalli Brahmins—is it in the Census Report?

PRESIDENT: I do not know.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know what the Director of Public Instruction means by 'backward'.

PRESIDENT: He means, probably, backward in point of English education.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is it backward in wealth or backward in education?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Backward in point of English education.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I think I can finish in five minutes.

Coming to undergraduates, all available undergraduates who acted during the time of Mr. Pryde, except four, have been re-appointed. These four are all Brahmins. No new appointments of undergraduates were made in 1098.

In 1099, 18 new appointments were made.

2 Brahmins.
2 Christians.
5 Nayars.
1 Raja.
8 from special classes, including backward and depressed classes.

Of three Munshies appointed—

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): How many of them were Ezhavas?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have not got them particularised here.

Of the three Munshies appointed since Mr. Narayana Aiyar took charge, one is a Brahmin (first class Mahopadhyaya) one a Christian and the other an Ezhava.

Within the same period, 4 clerks have also been appointed—2 Brahmins, 1 Nayar and 1 Christian. One of the Brahmins had served overseas and was recommended by the Soldiers' Committee.

Sir, I have endeavoured to explain how it came about that the percentage of Brahmins in the Educational Department is so high as it is.

[President.]

I have also tried to shew that, as the appointments to permanent posts are very few, the reduction in this percentage can in any case only be slow and gradual.

I have given figures for recent appointments in the English Schools foy Boys' branch which show at any rate that preference to Brahmins as a class has not been given.

As regards the other branches of the Department, I have not had the time to make so careful a scrutiny; and for that reason I do not say anything as regards these now.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What I want to know is this. Is the preponderance of Brahmins due to the policy of Government and not to the communal partiality of the officers responsible for the appointment?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Who is responsible for the past appointments, I cannot say, because I was not here when they were made. What I am trying to show by taking all available evidence is, why a good portion of the posts in the Education Department are held by Brahmins.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has Mr. Stephenson anything to say with reference to the specific instance cited by Rev. Fr. Vettikappalli?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have nothing to say. What I can promise is that, since the matter has been placed before me, I shall make an enquiry into it.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what Mr. Stephenson has got to say about Mr. Narayana Aiyar appointing his own son-in-law?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): He was appointed, not because he was Mr. Narayana Aiyar's son-in-law, but because he was a first class graduate in Mathematics. It was on that ground that he was appointed.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is the Director aware that he was just fresh from the college?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Most of our men who are appointed are fresh from the college.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the member be pleased to say why a Mathematics graduate was made to teach History?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That requires an enquiry.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are Mathematics graduates able to teach History? (*Laughter.*)

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Some Mathematics graduates *are* able to teach History.

PRESIDENT: I think the converse is more difficult. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PALLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mathematics is more easily learnt than History. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: That is news to me.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-5 P. M.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I also rise to support the motion. I was rather startled at the figures given by Mr. M. N. Pillai and I must confess that I am still more startled by some of the arguments advanced by the Director of Public Instruction in support of the policy pursued in the matter of appointment in the Education Department of the State during the past few years. The Director of Public Instruction has taken some pains to give some figures to show the superiority of the Brahmins in intellect over the non-Brahmin communities of the State.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether Mr. Padmanabha Pillai is aware whether Mr. Stephenson collected those figures himself or somebody else collected those figures on his behalf?

PRESIDENT: How does it affect the question? The figures are there. Who collected the figures is not relevant to the question at issue.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I just ask whether Mr. Padmanabha Pillai is aware whether Mr. Stephenson collected these figures or whether somebody else collected them for him.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that it is relevant to the question.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I do not know whether Mr. Stephenson quoted those figures with a view to infer that the Brahmins are intellectually superior to the non-Brahmins. I do not think that is the object with which he quoted those figures. I do not see the relevancy of these figures if they were not advanced to support such a position. Anyhow, whatever be the object, whether the Brahmins are superior or not, what I thought was that the attempt of the Director of Public Instruction was to show that the Brahmins are superior in certain respects and that provision ought to be made in the State service in proportion to that superiority. I do not believe that the non-Brahmins of the State will be prepared to accede to such a position. I therefore strongly support the motion of Mr. M. N. Pillai.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I did not want to speak on this motion, because I thought several of my friends on this side of the House had already made out a very strong case in support of that motion. But after the elaborate defence put forward by the Director of Public Instruction—and I suppose it is on behalf of the Government—I fear I shall have to speak a few words by way of explanation of what my friends on this side of the House have been saying. The views put forward by Mr. Stephenson were, I think, put forward on behalf of the Government.

PRESIDENT: There are no views put forward. He has only put forward some facts and figures.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Facts are stated with a view to draw some inference or other therefrom.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: The aim of the Director of Public Instruction is to explain why certain conditions exist.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The main complaint on this side of the House was, if I mistake not, about the preponderance of the Brahmin element in the Educational Department, especially in the English Schools. Mr. Stephenson quoted certain figures representing the percentage of the successful candidates in examinations among candidates who appeared from His Highness the Maha Raja's College. He gave a certain percentage of Brahmins who came out successful in the B. A. Degree, Intermediate and School Final Examinations. I do not know exactly for what purpose that was intended. The only relevancy that perhaps is perceptible to us is that, because of such a large percentage among Brahmins, naturally they have applied for posts in the Department.

PRESIDENT: In larger numbers perhaps, and there were no applicants from other communities. That was the object of Mr. Stephenson in quoting those figures, I presume.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I think that is the only object to be served by a reference to these figures. About the figures I have only to say thus much, *viz.*, that they stand in need of revision and re-examination. It does not appear to us, Sir, and we find it extremely difficult to believe, that there could have been such a dearth of applicants among members of non-Brahmin communities as to make it possible for such an overwhelming preponderance of one element only. Mr. Stephenson's own knowledge on the point has been admitted to be very imperfect, because he said he could not know how all these men happened to be put in, because he assumed charge of the Department only very recently. It therefore behoves him to say whether the facts stated by him alone are sufficient to warrant any inference or to justify the disproportionate representation of one element only in the Department. As to the percentage of candidates available for these posts, to my mind, the figures stated by Mr. Stephenson should not be taken by themselves, because the figures quoted by him relate only to the successful candidates who appeared from His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum. It is a well-known fact that several Travancoreans have not been able to get admission in His Highness the Maha Raja's College and have thus been forced to seek admission elsewhere and surely a considerable number among them have come out successful in the examinations. No attempt has been made to show how many of such Travancorean candidates from outside colleges had applied to these posts.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Stephenson did not say that these figures related only to applications from graduates of this College.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I would only draw the attention of Mr. Stephenson to the fact that, before an inference is drawn from a particular set of facts, the facts must be full.

The figures relating to His Highness the Maha Raja's College by themselves should not be taken into consideration. If we want to draw a reasonable inference from these figures, it ought to be done after ascertaining the number of Travancoreans who have passed the examinations. So far as the figures for the last three years in the list are concerned, we find that there has been absolutely no dearth of applications from the non-Brahmin communities. Still we find that a considerable number from the already over-represented community has been taken into the Department. It was stated as an argument. I do not know if it was put forward as an argument, but still it would appear that it was an argument—that they were the best men available. It was stated that the proportion stood thus because there were marks of distinction about members of that community. Perhaps there may have been brilliant men among them and there is no suggestion that brilliant men must be discouraged. We do not certainly contend that Brahmins should not be taken in the service at all. The only question is that the choice should be even and impartial. Government should distribute the appointments among suitable candidates in other communities as well. The Director has also told us that the blame should be laid not on the Inspector but shared equally by the head of the Department as well as the Government and that the Inspector should not be taken into account at all. We are not concerned with that. We only request through this motion that Government should investigate the matter to see that these figures supplied by the head of the Department,—I do not know whether the Government have examined these figures and I think that it is on behalf of Government that the Director of Public Instruction has told us all these things this evening—are correct and complete. If the Government have not gone through the figures and if they had no opportunity to investigate the matter, it is high time that an investigation is called for to see whether these figures are accurate and to get full knowledge of the whole question. It is then that they must pass an impartial judgment thereby securing honesty in the public service.

PRESIDENT: For the information of the House, I may say that an investigation has already been started at the instance of Government. As Mr. Stephenson has already stated, these figures have not yet been scrutinised by the Government. There has not been enough time to examine the matter exhaustively. An exhaustive examination of matters like this does take time.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I am really surprised to hear the explanation of the Director of Public Instruction on my motion. It was quite unsatisfactory and unconvincing. What I submit is that the percentage of Brahmins in service is disproportionately large and that the appointments made hereafter should be confined to non-Brahmins in order to equalise the proportion of appointments. Sir, he quoted the percentage of scholarship-holders in colleges and schools. We all know that most of these schools and colleges are manned by Brahmin teachers. The Headmasters are mostly Brahmins. They could very easily make Brahmins pass creditably in order to secure scholarships. This is seen from the fact that the Inspector himself has

[President.]

shown so much of partiality. He was bold enough to appoint his own son-in-law against the rules of Government.

PRESIDENT: It is not against the rules of Government.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Even then, it is against morality. (*Laughter.*) Certainly he should not have appointed his own son-in-law to the prejudice of other deserving applicants and placed him in a permanent vacancy. I am not at all convinced of the argument in support of the Inspector of Schools.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is the member aware that there is a departmental rule that relations should not be appointed?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That was my impression. Now I understand from the President that there is no such rule. I do dot know whether the Inspector got permission from the Government to appoint his son-in-law.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether Mr. M. N. Pillai is certain that Mr. Narayana Aiyar has appointed his son-in-law?

PRESIDENT: The Director has spoken about that. The Inspector never appoints. He only recommends and the Director appoints.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is not the Director that makes the selection, but it is done by the Inspector of Schools and there seems to be no principle in the matter of selection of candidates. We want equal opportunities to be given to qualified men belonging to other communities also and there ought to be no cause for complaints from non-Brahmins. The unjust encouragement shown to Brahmins by certain officers is the cause of unrest in the country. The Government should investigate the conduct of such officers and if any of them is found guilty, they should be severely dealt with, and, as some members suggested, such officers should be sent away from service.

Sir, I want fair-play and there should be no cause for heartburning to qualified non-Brahmins. With these words, I press the motion.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I have very little to add to what I have already said. There are one or two points since brought forward. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai raised the question as to why I took the figures from the Maha Raja's College alone. It is very difficult now to get figures from other colleges.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know with what object he quoted the figures?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I quoted the figures in order that the House might be acquainted with them.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): How were the figures relevant to his position?

PRESIDENT: You yourself put that question. I do not think that it should be put again.

MR. T. LAKSHMANAN PILLAI (*Nominated*): I would like to ask one question. May I know whether mere success in the examination would point to an all-round superiority of one community over another?

PRESIDENT: We are not discussing the superiority of one community over another, intellectually or otherwise. It is a question of the appointment of people who happen to be the members of certain communities.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, in my previous speech, I dealt with the general question. The only point left over is the matter of individual appointments. I quoted in my speech figures for the last two years. From those figures it would be seen that the proportion of Brahmin appointments is less than the existing proportion in the staff. As regards individual appointments, I can only say that if applications come in large numbers, they will be dealt with properly. For these applications, I have caused a register to be opened. I have arranged for such a register as will give full particulars, so that in any appointment that is made it will be possible for me to ascertain in five minutes whether all the applications have been considered. I hope that more than I said in my previous speech is not necessary to convince Mr. M. N. Pillai. I think he will not press the motion.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion Mr. M. N. Pillai?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I press the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 23 voting *for* and 18 *against*.

Motion 213.

The following motion was not made:

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:—

213. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 97,444 for Controlling Agencies by Rs. 100.

Motion 214.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I make the following motion:

214. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,924 for Pandits by Rs. 100.

I wish just to make a few observations with respect to this motion During the general discussion of the budget, I promised to prove to the House that the so-called test of efficiency, which is being dinned into our ears at each discussion of the budget when the question of any particular appointment is raised in the House, is, after all, an illusory thing from which officers of Government depart as they want. Here is a specific instance and it is to illustrate what I said that I have sent this motion up. With respect to this particular Pandit's post, I understand that there were two applicants, one a mere graduate and another a B. A. (Hons). The

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

mere B. A. was selected by the authorities and the other man was asked to stand aside. To protest against that appointment, I have sent in this motion. Before sending the motion, I had a talk with my friend Mr. Stephenson upon this subject. Then, he, evidently adopting the explanation supplied to him by the Principal of the Science College, told me that the methods of selection employed in this particular instance were as follows, that is to say, the Honours B.A. man in this particular instance happened to be a third class man and the mere B. A. a second class man. A second class B. A. is more than equivalent to a third class Honours B. A. Now, prolonging this sort of logic a little further, it would appear that a first class S. S. L.C. would be equivalent to a third class B. A. *Ex hypothesi*, a first class S. S. L. C. would be equivalent to a third class Honours B.A. If this sort of argument is lengthened on, the College authorities will be able to work various mathematical miracles (*laughter*) in the matter of appointments. Probably Mathematics will lend color to this. Another test that was employed as a crucial test by the Science College was this. Not having been satisfied with the hall-mark conferred by the University, these people appeared to have been at the pains to compare the marks of the two applicants. That is to say, with respect to one particular class examination they took out the marks secured by the applicants and it then appeared that the Honours man got only a lesser number of marks than his rival. In instituting this comparison, may I bring to the notice of the House the extremely ridiculous fashion in which it was conducted? Both of them did not belong to the same College and they never were together in the same class. One came from Madras and the other studied at Trivandrum and they were never together.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Does he know that the Honours man was a student of the third class in this College?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): For how many terms, please?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): For one whole year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): He graduated from a Madras College as I mentioned. To collect the marks obtained by a particular student in one particular year, and to institute a comparison between him and another student in another year, is a very strange proceeding. If this test is to be applied, probably the Principal of the Science College will have himself to abdicate his post in favour of some other person. Mr. Stephenson himself will have to perform the same feat. (*Laughter*) It is an unfair and unheard of comparison. All these are glorious tests to get rid of the University distinction that has been conferred upon the applicant; and to ignore the superior degree the authorities of the Science College have been at pains to do it and

the Director of Public Instruction has been glad to accept that. Now that is a direct illustration of what I have been saying at the budget discussion. The officers of the Travancore Darbar have got peculiar methods of circumventing persons and defeating the legitimate claims of other persons. In view of that fact, I am pressing this motion with all the warmth that I am capable of.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I am very glad that this, at any rate, is not a communal question as both the candidates are Nayars. With regard to the basis on which the selection of the Sanskrit Pandit was made, I would first of all point out that the business of the Sanskrit Pandit will be to teach Sanskrit translation. For that a knowledge of English is very necessary; in addition, a knowledge of Sanskrit also is necessary. An Honours graduate in Sanskrit has done very little English. I will mention no names. The Honours graduate is 32 years old. He passed his examination in 1923. He took seven years to pass the Intermediate examination. The ordinary period is two years. He secured 30 per cent. in English and 51 per cent. in Sanskrit in the class examination, and he was not promoted. He was permitted by the University, on the recommendation of the Lecturer in Sanskrit, to join the second year Honours course in Sanskrit in the Presidency College and he passed the B. A. Honours in Sanskrit in 1923 taking a third class and being the last on the list. With regard to the pass man he is 23 years old, he took 4 years to pass the Intermediate examination, he secured 39 per cent. in English and 60 per cent. in Sanskrit in the class examination, was promoted to class IV and secured 40 per cent. in English and 72 per cent. in Sanskrit in the College examinations for the class and passed the B. A. degree held last April securing a second class certificate. I leave it to the House to decide who is the better man and whether a knowledge of English is as essential as the knowledge of Sanskrit.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Stephenson whether an Honours graduate in Physics knows more English than an Honours graduate in Sanskrit? (*Laughter.*)

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot answer unless I know the man.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am asking a general question. Is not English, correct English, dignified King's English, not necessary to teach Physics? So I am putting this question.

PRESIDENT: It is common knowledge that those people who study for the Honours do not study English up to the same standard as pass B. A. students.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I see that answer, Sir. I am asking whether an Honours graduate in Physics knows more English than one who takes Honours degree in Sanskrit.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): With regard to an Honours graduate in Physics, his English is not in question. He has to deal only with English in the Laboratory when teaching Physics. But if he is to teach English, his knowledge must be precise and literary.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What is the percentage of marks these two candidates obtained in the University Examination?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have not got the marks that they secured in the University Examination. Those marks are confidential and they could not be divulged.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*: Has Mr. Stephenson got the history of the College career of the other Professors and Assistant Professors and Tutors of the College?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): In many cases, yes. With regard to the appointments in the English schools, in some cases I call for information to decide between men who have the same degree.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether, in the case of Mr. Lenos and the son-in-law of Mr. Narayana Aiyar, a similar comparison was instituted?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I institute a comparison only when there is no obvious difference between two third-class men, for instance, Mr. Lenos is a third class graduate and Mr. Narayana Iyer's son-in-law is a first class graduate.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I sympathise with the position in which Mr. Stephenson is placed. He is obliged to defend a position which no man can defend. If we are to put a value on a University Degree of a high class, we have to value it for all practical purposes irrespective of the personal opinion of the persons who make the appointments. Personally, Sir, I know various gentlemen sitting in this House—

PRESIDENT: Just the contrary opinion was expressed by Mr. Lakshmana Pillai.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Yes, we differ in several things. (*Laughter.*)

What I am saying is that there are several gentlemen sitting on both sides of the House whose careers in the High School and College were not brilliant and they were studying along with persons who had distinguished High School and College careers. But in life, Sir, they have done, and they are doing, and they will be doing very much better than some of those men who merely got a first class. I can count tens and dozens of such men. Now, when that is the fact, simply because a boy in the lower class of the High School or College did not show sufficient application

to his studies or there was some other circumstance, illness, pecuniary difficulties, want of proper encouragement on the part of parents—whatever be the reasons, if a boy did not come out so well as another, if after all his past High School and College career has been forgotten and when the University has certified his fitness; If then we are asked to go and dive deep and burrow things out and unearth arguments and facts which nobody can value, that is a mentality on which I cannot congratulate any officer of the Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Hear, hear.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Stephenson did not say that that was the only reason.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): He devoted considerable time over it.

PRESIDENT: The chief reason he mentioned was the larger percentage of marks which one candidate had. It was considered that for translation a higher knowledge of English was necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I know of gentlemen who are able to translate English into Sanskrit and Sanskrit into English very much better than first class men. So that, marks alone do not furnish a safe test. If Mr. Stephenson or the Principal of the Science College had sent for both the candidates and tested their respective capacities—or if the Principal did not know Sanskrit, by sending both persons to some gentleman of acknowledged eminence in both Sanskrit and English, that would be a different matter.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know how he can be sure of his impartiality when he does not think that we are impartial?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): For ordinary purposes, one can trust in the impartiality of persons. It is only when the arguments are so unconvincing, and the illogical nature of them lies on the surface, that we do not accept these arguments. But, in this particular case, we cannot trust them because there are the facts and there are wrong arguments supplied to meet them. So, there is considerable force in the arguments advanced by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.

I am very glad that there is no communal distinction in this question. I am obliged to Mr. Stephenson for the information that both are Nayars, and that no question of communal preference arose and that the Principal of the Science College is a Brahmin. But it would not do if there is merely the absence of any communal questions. Other tests especially that of efficiency should also be applied. There is the question of justice to be considered. Are we to revalue the University Degree according to the standard of Mr. Stephenson? The examinations were held in two years, the examiners were different and the standards were also different. The number of successful persons must also have been different.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

PRESIDENT ; The nature of the examination is different in the two cases. One is an Honors man and the other an ordinary pass B. A.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : Which is the more searching examination in the Sanskrit Degree ?

PRESIDENT ; That is the point in issue.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : So, when a man has come out successful from fire, why not he be preferred to another without the like qualifications ? I therefore support Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Sir, only one additional fact has been brought forward by Mr. Stephenson which was not anticipated by me. That is to say he now says that for the purpose of translation a superior knowledge of English would be of greater value in the Science College. I suppose the translation is to be made from the Sanskrit Language into English and from English into Sanskrit. That being the case, to translate first of all from the Sanskrit Language, a correct knowledge of the Sanskrit Language is a prerequisite. Sanskrit, like English, is an idiomatic language,—its idiom, its grammar and purity—all these are factors which can only be appreciated by a scholar of Sanskrit. As for the knowledge of English, I am surprised to hear Mr. Stephenson emphasising that aspect. In view of the fact that the Science College has heaps of Professors daily dealing with the English Language, English literature, grammar and even the antiquarian interest of that language—

PRESIDENT : It is the knowledge of English with reference to the translation of Sanskrit into English that is required. What is the use of other people having proficiency in English when the Pandit himself is wanting in it? That is the standpoint.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : The Pandit is not wanting in English. In a comparison, it would appear that one man has more proficiency than the other only in the eyes of the authorities.

PRESIDENT : The knowledge in English of the man who has pased the Pass B. A. is presumed to be greater than that of the Honors man. That is the point. Mr. Stephenson's point, I am afraid, has not been correctly understood. In the case of the Honors man who took Sanskrit as his subject, the knowledge of English is not of the same standard as that of the man who has taken a Pass Degree in the same subject.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : That is my point.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : In the case of all Honors men, according to Mr. Stephenson, their knowledge of English will necessarily be inferior to that of Pass course men.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): My point is not that the knowledge of English of any Honors man is necessarily inferior to the knowledge of English of any Pass man, but that, on an average, it is likely to be inferior and that in this particular case it is.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May I know from Mr. Narayana Pillai whether he knows the candidate and had occasion to test his proficiency in Sanskrit?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No. On the other hand, with respect to the Honors B. A. man, I know that his knowledge of English is quite sufficient, and that he is proficient in the Sanskrit language and the Malayalam language.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Narayana Pillai how many years he was a teacher in the College?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): For nearly seven years.

So, I am submitting, Sir, that theories and arguments which fall very far short of conviction do not create any impression upon my mind. It is a belaboured argument that has been brought forward to support a vague and untenable position and I am very sorry I cannot see my way to withdraw the motion. So I press it.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I have got very little to add to what I have already said. I do not think that, as a matter of fact, there would have been any objection if the proper kind of man had been available. It may seem at first sight that a third class Honors man in Sanskrit is better than a second class Pass man with Sanskrit as his subject. But, on the other hand, the claims of the Honors man in English are decidedly less than the claims of the Pass man. As a matter of fact, the Pass man was better than the Honors man. Personally, I think this appointment has been rightly made. But, I cannot say whether all other appointments will be made according to this principle. I have nothing further to add.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Stephenson what the place of translation in the Sanskrit Honors course is—*i. e.* translation from Sanskrit to English and *vice versa*?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am afraid I do not know.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 21 *voting for* and 18 *against*.

Motion 215.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

215. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 91,823 for His Highness the Maha Rajah's College of Science and Arts by Rs. 100.*

Sir, the object of my motion is to bring to the notice of the House the way in which collegiate education in Science is being made expensive to the people and the country. From the beginning of the current academic year, the College of Science has been allowed to monopolise for itself the historic and spacious pile of buildings from which the Arts section has been removed to the new building at Taikad. This was done, it is said, against the expressed opinion of the powers that be that rule the scientific department in the College, on the plea that the removal of the Arts would not provide accommodation for Science. Government are said to have overridden their opinion, and as if to prove that they had been in the right, the authorities in the Science College, it is said, refused admission to a large number of students. In the fight between the Science authorities and the Government, it was the people who really suffered in the end and the poor innocent students and their parents who paid the penalty. Ultimately, the Government, being the stronger authority, were able, it is said, to discover space enough to squeeze in another 50 students which space had escaped the telescopes and microscopes of our scientists. Meanwhile, the students were scattered helter-skelter, too late to benefit by the Government's accommodating spirits, for fear that they should be too late for admission into other colleges. Who suffers? The parents evidently who have to make monthly suicidal remittances to distant places. All the coquetry would have been in place if what the Science College offers is a substantial good. On the other hand, it is a notorious fact that the graduate is now a drug in the market. Nobody wants him. There is so much of over-production that the article could be had for a song. The monthly value of the graduate is going down as fast as the German mark did a few months ago. Even at this lowered price, there are no buyers. Unemployment seems to threaten the ruin of many families. Many expensively educated young men are being idle two and three years for lack of job which would bring them even Rs. 15 or Rs. 20. The rush on the Science branch too is a result of this unemployment. The belief runs that a Science Degree is more valuable in the industrial awakening in India. Indeed, the more Science graduates we have, the sooner, it is believed, will be the coming in of the industrial era. This is a false notion. Where do these Science graduates go in the end? We all know where they go—only into the vortex of clerical porfession or law. What does it matter to a clerk whether he can tell the difference between an acid and an alkali? His scientific training leads him nowhere. If there is to be any solution to the problem of unemployment, it must come more through commercial degrees than through anything else. Under such circumstances, when the authorities know that the kind of scientific education that is imparted leads to nothing very great, it is unfair to make it more and more expensive.

This fallacy—the confusion of ideas that the Science graduate is the future creator of industrial India—is responsible for a great deal of mischief. If our Scientific education produces research scholars of such note that they would create new industries which would pour wealth and honor into our land, we should feel that no amount of money spent on them would be a waste. But nobody would claim such honors for the average product of our scientific laboratories. They have not started new industries. They have no research to their credit worth the name. On the other hand, science is only one way of securing a degree and of bombarding officers responsible for dispensing clerks' places. While that is so, the professors who are responsible for imparting scientific instruction are asking for staff and equipment on scales as if they were producing scientific geniuses who would recreate India and bring about the millenium. That is the reason why I have taken it upon myself to bring to the notice of the House the extravagant expenditure on the staff of the Science College. I would take the case of the Physics Department. Their work is parallel to that of the Chemistry Department. Yet there are only one Professor, one Assistant Professor, four Demonstrators—six in all—in that department; while in the Physics Department there are one Professor, two Assistant Professors and five Demonstrators—eight in all. Why is this disparity? Is it because the erstwhile Physics Professor is the Director of Public Instruction? A comparison of the staff with those of other Colleges teaching Science will show that the present Physics staff is superfluous. What does this show but reckless waste? With all that, the Physics Department is not admitting as many students as the Chemistry Department. I hope therefore that the Government would make the place of the second Assistant Professor in Physics provisional, in very truth, as it is already on paper, and bring him down to the Demonstrator's position to which he rightly belongs, and disband at least two of the Tutors recently employed, or, at least, find other work for them. This is absolutely necessary, for the Science Departments would take the cue from the Physics Department and ask for more staff. The Chemistry Department will ask for another Assistant Professor and Demonstrator and the Natural Science Department will ask for another Assistant Professor—two in all—one for botany and another for zoology—and three more Demonstrators. The Government is in the position of a parent of twins. He could not buy toys except in duplicates. Therefore the best way to avoid unnecessary expenditure is to effect a cut in the Physics Department as suggested by me.

I just want to say one or two words about the old college and the grievous wrong done to Dr. Thomas.

PRESIDENT: There remain only 15 minutes for the expiry of the time allotted to this demand.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want just two minutes more. There were a large number of non-Brahmins, a large number of Nayars and a few Christians whose names are very well known here, on the staff of the old college. I want also to refer to Mr. Thomas's case.

[President.]

The Government's reply was that the Director had said that his application escaped his scrutiny. Mr. Mammen Mappillai some time ago pressed for better representation in the Colleges for Christians and others and the reply given was that those gentlemen who shined very brilliantly in South India and other parts of British India did not care to go over here. Here is the specific case of Dr. P. J. Thomas, a son of the soil, asking for an employment in the College. Some excuse is being made that his application escaped attention. There is not a single Catholic on the staff of the College. Here was an opportunity to appoint a Catholic. I sent my interpellation seven months ago. I once again say that here was an opportunity if there was good faith and good feeling on the part of the authorities to provide for Dr. Thomas. We have lost a great educationist and lost him for ever. I know that Dr. Thomas has sent reminders even to the Director of Public Instruction.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Can I have the date of the reminder?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not know the date. That he reminded the Director is correct information. We had a large European staff in the College. Now there is only one European and the present Director is the second European in the Education Department. The prestige of the European is being weighed in the balance. I was very sorry to hear some questions that have been asked and statements made about the European head of the Department. We expect a great deal from him. There is disappointment and bitter feeling among the representatives of the country in the matter of appointments and prestige in the Department.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): May I ask which appointments?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Professors, Lecturers, Demonstrators, etc. I must, at the same time, say to the credit of the Government that they are extremely sympathetic in the matter. I knew that, when I represented the case of Mr. Mathew, the Dewan was also sympathetic in this matter. He made a splendid stand in the matter of the bifurcation of the College. What we want is some sympathy on the part of the head of the Department. The very same sympathy that is shown by the Head of the Administration in this matter should be shown by the head of the Department, the Inspector of Schools and the Assistant Inspectors of schools. With these few remarks, I beg to withdraw my motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I object to the withdrawal. We want to hear the official member before it is withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: You object to the withdrawal?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I do not propose to make a long speech with regard to the College. I would first of all refer to the last remark of Mr. Hoogewerf in which he referred to the desirability of the Head of the Department being sympathetic and sympathetic generally. I can assure the House of my sympathy.

Then with regard to the expensiveness of the staff of the Science College which Mr. Hoogewerf referred to, and the discrepancy between the staff for Physics and Chemistry, I would point out that the Physics branch has more students than the Chemistry branch.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May, I know how many Professors and Assistant Professors there are in the Presidency College which teaches up to the Honours Course?

PRESIDENT: Your point was that the Physics staff in the Science College was stronger than the Chemistry staff.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to ask—

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have not got figures here for the Presidency College; but I have got the *University Calendar*. I have noted the figures for the St. Joseph's College.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Up to what standard do they give instruction there?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): They teach up to the Honours Class. There they have got seventeen persons to teach both Chemistry and Physics.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many of them for Physics?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Both together 17.

PRESIDENT: 8 and 9.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many Christians and Nayars there are on the staff of the Science College in the Physics branch at present?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): One Nayar and one Christian.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know how many Tutors there are?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There are no Tutors, but only Demonstrators.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know how many Professors and Assistant Professors there are in the Presidency College which teaches up to Honours Course in Science?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have got the Calendar for 1924 which gives the staff for 1923. There

[President.]

is one Professor for Physics, as also one Additional Professor, two Assistant Professors and one temporary Assistant Professor.

PRESIDENT: They do not keep salaried Demonstrators there.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, I am afraid. The staff is very much bigger than ours.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The staff is only five.

PRESIDENT: The Demonstrators are omitted there as they get only honoraria and not salaries.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I will look up.

PRESIDENT: What is the strength of the class?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Big. 850 strong.

PRESIDENT: What is the strength of the Physics class?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not know.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know the strength of the Chemistry and Physics classes here?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): We have 591 students taking Chemistry and 630 taking Physics. We have got a larger number taking Physics and Chemistry than any other college in the Presidency and the staff we have budgeted for is 8 for Chemistry and 9 for Physics.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: Let him complete his statement.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): For Physics and Chemistry combined we have 17 hands. When the combined staff was 11, we had 415 for Physics and 377 for Chemistry. At St. Joseph's, Trichinopoly, for 562 doing Physics and 483 doing Chemistry the staff provided numbered 17.—.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do they teach up to the Honours Course in the Colleges?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): We do not. Sir, Mr. Hoogewerf said that it was his intention to draw attention to the college staff. I can assure Mr. Hoogewerf that the matter has been very carefully considered and that the staff proposed is the very least for maintaining the efficiency of the College. The number of students doing Physics has increased from 420 to 630. Additional provision has been made for them. Recommendations for the increase in staff were very carefully made and I can assure the House that only what was absolutely necessary was recommended for sanction.

PRESIDENT: Now I hope the House has no objection to the withdrawal of the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted to this demand is over. I now put the demand to the vote of the House.

The question is that a sum of Rs. 33·67 lakhs *minus* Rs. 200 be granted under Demand XII—Education. I take it that the Council sanctions the demand.

The grant was made.

Motions 216 to 245.

The following motions lapsed on account of the expiry of the period allotted for the demand:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

216. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,679 for His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Women by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

217. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,15,783 for Collegiate Education by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

218. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,15,783 for Collegiate Education by Rs. 100.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

219. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 58,750 for establishment by (the pay of 9 additionel teachers) Rs. 5,400.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

220. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,640 for manual training expenses by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

221. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,00,062 for English School Education by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

222. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,00,062 for English School Education by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

223. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,344 for Bhagavatars in vernacular schools for girls by Rs. 100.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

224. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,800 under lump provision by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

225. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,73,215 for Vernacular School Education by Rs. 100.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

226. To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for special school for Malayala Brahmins.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

227. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,059 for establishment under Caste Hindu Hostel by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

228. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,919 for Hostel attached to the College for Women by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

229. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,800 for Training College Hostel by Rs. 100.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI:

230. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23,768 under Hostels by Rs. 100.

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

231. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 800 for travelling allowances by Rs. 500.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

232. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,700 for Text Book Committee by Rs. 100.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

233. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 60,000 under Examinations by Rs. 9,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

234. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 60,000 under Examinations by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

235. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,000 for maintenance grants to English schools for boys by Rs. 3,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

236. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 33,000 for grants-in aid to English schools for girls by Rs. 5,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

237. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,32,000 for grants in-aid to vernacular schools for boys by Rs. 50,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

238. To omit the allotment of Rs. 9,000 for grants for furniture and appliances.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

239 To omit the allotment of Rs. 14,000 for grants for buildings.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

240. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,000 for stipends in the Training College by Rs. 10,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

241. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,300 under sale of Macmillan Readers by Rs. 500.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

242. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 33·67 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI:

243. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 33·67 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

244. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 33·67 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

245. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 33·67 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

DEMAND XIII—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·57 lakhs under Demand XIII—Agriculture and Fisheries.

Motions 246 to 253.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

246. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 500.

MR. N. KUMARAN :

247. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. KUMARAN :

248. To omit the allotment of Rs. 150 for honorarium for preparation of Agricultural Manual.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

249. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for purchase of live-stock.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY :

250. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for maintenance of live-stock by Rs. 10,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

251. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,030 for seeds, manures, implements, etc., by Rs. 520. (Purchase of poultry appliances).

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

252. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for levelling, etc., of lands acquired for the Demonstration Farms by Rs. 2,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

253. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,278 for land acquisition charges.

Motion 254.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : I beg to move the following motion :—

254. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for rug-making and carpet weaving.

I should like to know what this item is intended for. It is not clear why the Agricultural Department is making rugs and carpets.

PRESIDENT : Will you explain it, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai? It is an appendage to the silk farm.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : There is a small flock of Coimbatore sheep in the cattle farm at Perukkadai and it yields every year a few pounds of fleece. With the fleece so collected some experiments were conducted on rug and blanket manufacture. The results obtained were encouraging. So an officer of the department was deputed to Vellore and other places to undergo special training in rug and blanket making. On his return he conducted some more experiments, the result of which proved that there is every possibility of introducing rug and blanket making as a cottage industry in Travancore. A school was therefore opened in the Silk Farm for training boys in this work. The first batch consisted of 10 students who left the school after one year's training in Medam last. Another batch of 10 students is now under training. So far, the school has been found working satisfactorily. Hence it is considered desirable to continue the same for another year.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : May I know whether these carpets are available for sale?

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : Yes.

PRESIDENT : They were also exhibited in the Exhibition.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : May I know what the expert is doing now ?

PRESIDENT : Giving instruction in rug-making and carpet-making.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : Is it part of weaving ?

PRESIDENT : It is supervised by the Agricultural Department because there is a flock of sheep in the Agricultural Farm.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : The rearing of the sheep is conducted by the Agricultural Department, but weaving comes under Mr. Chacko.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : This has been in existence even before the Department of Industries was organised. We are continuing the same.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : Are there people in the Industries Department who are able to do it ?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : That does not mean that the Agricultural Department—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : I want a direct answer to the question whether there are people in the Industries Department to do the work.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : I think Mr. Chacko will be able to explain.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : I am asking the Director of Agriculture about some matters relating to this. It is better that I get the information direct from the Director himself.

PRESIDENT : I will explain. The Director of Agriculture is not expected to know the inner working of the Industries Department. So I will explain. There is nobody at present in the Industries Department who knows carpet-making. As I said at the beginning, the boys who are trained to rear silk-worms are also taught carpet-weaving by the Agricultural Department. So this is only an appendage.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 255 to 260.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :—

255. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,208 for apiculture (furniture and books) by Rs. 70.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

256. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 33,566 for Veterinary Charges by Rs. 100.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI :—

257. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 33,566 for Veterinary Charges by Rs. 100.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI :—

258. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,228 for Fisheries by Rs 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI :—

259. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·57 lakhs under Demand XIII by Rs. 100

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :—

260. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·57 lakhs under Demand XIII by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT : I now put to the vote of the House Demand XIII —Agriculture and Fisheries—for Rs. 1·57 lakhs. I take it that the House sanctions it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIV—INDUSTRIES.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·29 lakhs under Demand XIV—Industries.

Motion 261.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :—

261. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for equipment, tools, etc., for Textile Expert by Rs. 1,000.

Motions 262 and 263.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : Before moving motion No. 262 I want to know whether any orders have been placed for the purchase of the drill and at what stage the matter is.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*) : The order had been placed and the drill has come, and we have made the payment. So I am ready to accept a cut of Rs. 9,100. The payment was made on the last day of Karkatakam last year.

PRESIDENT : I shall put the figure at Rs 9,000 roughly. There is no objection to it, I believe.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : Then I do not move the motion.

Accordingly the following motions were not moved :—

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :—

262. To omit the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for purchase of a boring drill.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :—

263. To omit the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for purchase of a boring drill.

Motions 264 to 267.

The following motions were also not moved :—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

264. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,743 for Direction by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :—

265. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for purchase of surveying instruments

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. N. KUMARAN :—

266. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,908 for Carpentry Institute, Quilon, by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :—

267. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,145 for establishment by Rs. 220.

Motion 268.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion :—

268. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,377 for Government School of Commerce by Rs. 1,320. (To combine the appointments of the Malayalam Shorthand Instructor and the Instructor in Typewriting.)

My object in tabling this motion is to know whether a person who knows Malayalam Shorthand and Typewriting could not be appointed instead of two separate persons in the Alleppey Commercial School.

PRESIDENT: There is no Instructor in Malayalam Typewriting.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Need not be Malayalam Typewriting. My object is to know whether a person who is an Instructor in Malayalam Shorthand and who knows English typewriting as well could not be appointed so that there may not be the necessity for appointing two persons.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, I considered that question very well before I sent up the proposal to the Government. The typewriting instructor in the School of Commerce is the most hard-worked among the teachers there. He has to work overtime, for, in addition to teaching typewriting, he has to attend to the work of cleaning and repairing the machine. The Headmaster has been asking me to appoint a Typewriter Mechanic also. Just to get over that demand I appointed a Shorthand Instructor in English who knew also typewriting and they two are managing the typewriting class. Under the circumstances, it will not be possible to combine these two duties in one man. The students will beprejudicially affected, if we do so.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Is he aware that there are Malayalam Shorthand writers who know typewriting as well?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I do not think there are very many.

PRESIDENT: The instructor in typewriting must be a man who has passed the advanced test in typewriting. A man may know Malayalam Shorthand and yet might not have passed the typewriting examination in the advanced grade. That is one difficulty in combining the two appointments.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 269 to 275.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

269. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,200 for experimental tannery.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

270. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,200 for experimental tannery.

MR N. KUMARAN:

271. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,200 for experimental tannery Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

272. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,750 for purchase of apparatus.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

273. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·29 lakhs under Demand XIV by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

274. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·29 lakhs under Demand XIV by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

275. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·29 lakhs under Demand XIV by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote of the House Demand XIV—Industries—Rs. 1·29 lakhs *minus* Rs 9,000. I take it that the House accepts it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XV—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

MRS. MARY POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·40 lakhs under Demand XV—Medical Department.

Motions 276 and 277.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

276. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 200.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

277. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 200.

Motion 278.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

278. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,743 for Darbar Physician by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെപ്പററി എന്തെങ്കിലും പറയുന്നതിനു മുൻപ് ഇപ്പോൾ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യനെപ്പററി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടത് എന്റെ കടമയാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെയെന്നല്ല ഇൻഡ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

യിൽ എവിടെയെങ്കിലും സ്ത്രീവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ഒരു ദേഹത്തിനു ഡർബാർ ഫിസിഷ്യനാകാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ നിയമനിർമ്മാണസഭയിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കും സാമാജികസ്ഥാനാർത്ഥിനികളായി നില്ക്കാമെന്നു നിയമം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതിലേക്കാരും ഇതുവരെ തയ്യാറായിട്ടില്ല. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ നിയമത്തിൽ അന്തർഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആ മഹത്തായ ഉദ്ദേശത്തിന് ഈ നിയമനത്താൽ ഫലപ്രാപ്തി സിദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. നിയമസഭയിൽ ഒരു മഹതിക്ക് ആദ്യമായി മെംബർസ്ഥാനം കിട്ടാൻ ഇടയായതു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും അഭിമാനകരമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാണെന്നു പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ.

രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ജനസംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിക്കുംതോറും ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏററവും അത്യാവശ്യമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള വൈദ്യസഹായം അതിനൊക്കനുരൂപമായ വിധം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയെ കൗൺസിലിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണ് ഈ മോഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്.

ബറോഡാരാജ്യത്തിൽ ൨൧ ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് ആശുപത്രികളും ഡിസ്പെൻസറികളുമായി ൭൯ എണ്ണമുണ്ടെന്നാണ് അവിടത്തെ രാജ്യഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നു കാണുന്നത്. അവിടത്തെ മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു ൧൯൧൨-ൽ ൨൮ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിവന്നിരുന്നത് ൧൯൨൩-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൭൮ ലക്ഷം രൂപയായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അവിടത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് അതുകൊണ്ടും തൃപ്തിപ്പെടാതെ ആശുപത്രികളെ കൊണ്ടുള്ള പ്രയോജനം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതലായി ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി പല പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളോടുകൂടിയ ഒരു പുതിയ സ്കീം ഇപ്പോൾ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ സ്കീം അനുസരിച്ചു ഗ്രാമനിവാസികൾക്ക് അഞ്ചു മൈലിനകം വൈദ്യസഹായം കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഡിസ്പെൻസറികൾ തുറക്കാനാണ് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇവിടെ ൧൦൯൦-ൽ ആശുപത്രികളും ഡിസ്പെൻസറികളുമായി ൩൩ എണ്ണം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനു ൪,൯൯,൩൪൪ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൦൯൯-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ആശുപത്രികളുടേയും ഡിസ്പെൻസറികളുടേയും എണ്ണം ൩൦ ആയി വർദ്ധിക്കുകയും അതിലേക്ക് ൩,൭൭,൨൩൩ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ൯ വർഷങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടു ൪ ആശുപത്രികളും അതിന്റെ ചിലവിൽ ൨,൧൭,൯൨൨ രൂപായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ബറോഡാരാജ്യത്തെ ൨൧ ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപകരിക്കുന്നതിനു ൭൯ ആശുപത്രികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയും അതിലേക്ക് ൭൮

ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതി യോ ര്‍ 0 ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് ൧൨൦ ആശുപത്രികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു ൭ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്ന ൭ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപായ്ക്കനുരൂപമായ ഗുണം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സിദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ മനോവേദന ഓരോ ദിവസവും വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു. ഇവിടെയുള്ള ആശുപത്രികളെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമാക്കി തീർക്കുന്നതിനും, കൂടുതൽ ആശുപത്രികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ട നിഷ്കൃഷ്ട ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. ആശുപത്രികളെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമാക്കി തീർക്കുന്നതിനും കൂടുതൽ ആശുപത്രികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനും പണമില്ലെന്നുള്ള സമാധാനം പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിൽനിന്നു ചിലവാക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ ഒന്നാമത്തെ സ്ഥാനത്തു നില്ക്കേണ്ടത് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യരക്ഷയ്ക്കു വേണ്ടീട്ടുള്ള ചിലവാണെന്നുള്ളതിൽ ആർക്കും അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസം വരാൻ തരമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

കഴിത്തുറയിൽ ഒരു സർക്കാർ ആശുപത്രിവേണമെന്ന് അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ എത്രയോ കാലമായി സങ്കടം പറഞ്ഞു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. അവിടെ ഒരു മിഷൻ ആശുപത്രിയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള കാരണത്താലാണ് അവക്കു സർക്കാർ ആശുപത്രി കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതു. അവിടെ ഒരു മിഷൻ ആശുപത്രിയുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. മിഷൻ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ നിന്നു ചികിത്സനടത്തി കിട്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള ചിലവുകളുടെ പരിമാണം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ എത്തീട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നതു്. സാധാരണജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അവിടെ ചികിത്സകൾ നടത്തിക്കാൻ അവരുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതി അനുവദിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പല ഭാഗത്തും നിവസിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ധർമ്മമായി വൈദ്യസഹായം കിട്ടുമ്പോൾ വിളവംകോട്ടുതാലൂക്കിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ മരുന്നുകൾ വിലയ്ക്കുവാങ്ങേണ്ടിവരികയും ചികിത്സയ്ക്കു പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു കഷ്ടമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു.

ചികിത്സയ്ക്കു വിലപിടിച്ചതും നല്ലതുമായ മരുന്നുകൾക്കു പകരം ഗുണം കുറഞ്ഞതും വിലകുറഞ്ഞതുമായ മരുന്നുകളെ ഉപയോഗിച്ചു വരുന്ന പതിവ് ഇനിയെങ്കിലും മാററിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ആശുപത്രികളിൽ ചില മരുന്നുകൾ തീർന്നുപോയാൽ പകരം വേറെ മരുന്നുകൾ ചേർത്തു

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

കൊടുക്കണമെന്നും ആ സംഗതി രോഗികളെ അറിയിക്കരുതെന്നും നിഷ്കർഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനേയും ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഓരോ അവയവങ്ങളെപ്പററിയുള്ള പ്രത്യേകപഠിപ്പിനായി മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസറന്മാരെ വിദേശങ്ങളിൽ അയയ്ക്കുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ അതിലേയ്ക്കു സമർത്ഥന്മാരേയും പ്രത്യേകം വാസനയുള്ളവരേയും തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു അയയ്ക്കുന്നതിൽ പ്രത്യേകം നിഷ്കർഷകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. സ്ത്രീകൾക്കായുള്ള കൊല്ലം വിക്ടോറിയാ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ പുരുഷന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു സ്ത്രീകൾക്കുള്ള സുഖക്കേടുകളെ അവർക്കു തുറന്നു പറഞ്ഞു ചികിത്സിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രതിബന്ധമായി നില്ക്കുന്നതിനെ ഇനിമേലെങ്കിലും മാറേറണ്ടതാണ്.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I join Mr. Kumara Pillai in voicing, if I may say so, the sentiments of this House and probably the sentiments of the whole country in the epoch-making event of appointing a lady as the head of the Medical Department and as a member of this Council. In the history of the legislatures in India, such an event has never taken place. It will be mentioned in red letters in the history of Travancore that it was the first State during the time of a Maha Rani and during the administration of the present Dewan that this glorious new departure took place. The joy is all the greater because Dr. Mary Lukose is a daughter of the soil and is the only daughter of the revered, highly honoured and highly loved doctor, the late Dr. Poonnen, who is still remembered with the greatest affection by the whole of Travancore. The appointment of a woman as the head of the Medical Department is quite in keeping with the present social and literary status of Travancore. We stand first in the whole of India in the matter of female education. The *karanavatti*, in the absence of a *karanavan*, a male member, becomes the head of the family. Similarly the senior member of the Medical Department, the *karanavatti*, I may say, has been rightly acknowledged to be the head of the medical family.

I have been a great and unsparing critic of the Medical Department, and I am extremely sorry that we have not had the privilege or occasion of wishing good-bye to Dr. Lakshmanan who went away from us under very sad circumstances, having received a telegram from Mrs. Peter Lakshmanan about her illness. We are extremely sorry in not having had occasion to say a word of good-bye or a word of praise to that eminent doctor. He has done a great deal of good to the country. I have been a critic of his administration, no doubt. But, there is not the smallest doubt that he was a great physician and a great doctor and that he has done many good things to the Department.

I do not want just now to go into the details of the administration of the Medical Department. Nor do I think that it will be very necessary for saying much about the Medical Department hereafter. Knowing as I do Mrs. Poonnen Lukose, I have the greatest confidence in her and I hope that everything possible will be done by the Head of the Administration to enable her to improve the Department and to help the suffering people of Travancore.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, the Medical Department has been stationary for some time. For very many years there have been various difficulties which we have been urging the Government to remove. The help that is given in the hospitals is not within the reach of the poor people. I have known instances in which poor in-patients had to tip peons and compounders. I was referring yesterday to the fact that one has to consult the auspicious stars before one takes medicine, because the medical officers themselves warn persons that if possible it would be better to buy medicines from chemists' shops.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the member be pleased to say whether in-patients have not got to tip doctors in the Medical Department.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The fee that is paid to a doctor is not a tip; it is very much more than that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): When they are in the hospital?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): If the doctor goes out of the way and attends to the patient more than his duty in the Hospital requires, then the doctor may have to be paid and there is nothing immoral about it.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What I mean to say is when the in-patients are in the Hospital.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I have said what I have to say. I wish to associate myself with Mr. Hoogewerf in saying that Doctor Lakshmanan was an eminent physician, was respected and loved in Travancore for very many years. He has now gone and let us wish well by him. The personality of the present head of the Medical Department, I do not want to draw into the vortex of controversy. I might say that the present head of the Medical Department is there, not because she is a woman, but because she is an efficient doctor with considerable administrative capacity. As a Hindu I believe in destiny. The good Doctor Poonnen was helping the people, rich and poor, young and old, and he had a fund of generosity which should be appreciated for all time. But because Doctor Poonnen was an Indian, he had no chance of becoming Darbar Physician and directing the Medical Department at that time. But the good that men do sometimes lives after them. I understand that it was Doctor Poonnen who suggested the idea of a large Maternity Hospital, I am told, he even planned the buildings. It is in the fitness of things in the dispensation of kind

[Mrs. Mary Poonnen Lukose.]

Providence that the daughter of that eminent doctor, who is herself a doctor of considerable experience and capacity, has been sent to us to continue the excellent work that her father did in the interests of the suffering people of Travancore. I trust that, under the present head of the Medical Department, there will be a real alleviation of distress in the land.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanacherry* cum *Minachil*): I associate myself with the previous speakers in congratulating Mrs. Lukose on her appointment as the head of the Medical Department and also as a member of this Council. I also think that it is a matter for congratulation not only to that lady, but it is a matter for congratulation for ourselves as well as to our beloved country.

My friend Mr. Kumara Pillai has brought to the notice of the House one important fact with regard to the Medical Department, that is, the need for the extension of its usefulness still further. I fully agree with him in saying that the usefulness of the Medical Department requires still further extension and he has quoted one instance from South Travancore. I may quote many from North Travancore. But so far as my constituency is concerned, I may bring to the notice of the House the immediate necessity for having a hospital or a dispensary in the constituency which I have the honor to represent. Sir, in Changanachery and Minachil there are only two medical institutions, namely one at Lalam and another at Changanachery. But these two taluks cover a very large area.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanacherry* cum *Minachil*): But the distances between Lalam, Changanachery, Kottayam, Vaikam and Muvattupuzha—these are the surrounding hospitals—are so great that the people inhabiting the middle portion of these taluks or *proverthies* do not get any medical aid from Government. I have come across many cases where patients die for want of facility to get any medical aid. In some urgent cases, such as confinement cases, it is very difficult to carry the patient to the distant hospitals and many cases of death have occurred. So what I bring to the notice of the new Darbar Physician and also to the Government and to the members of this House is the necessity for starting one hospital somewhere near the middle of these localities—say at Kuravilangad or Kozhai which is centrally situated.

MRS. MARY POONNEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): After the very kind references made to me, Sir, permit me, before I begin to answer Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion, to say a few words. I am very grateful to the members for giving me such a cordial reception. When I entered this House I came with the feeling very similar to that which I experienced about seventeen years ago when I entered His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Boys, as the first lady student. It was with that same nervousness and diffidence that I entered this House yesterday. This House has given me a reception which has encouraged me not a little. But still my position is a very peculiar one. I have been

suddenly called upon to fill an office of great responsibility and there is no gainsaying the fact that I must attempt it with very great fear and diffidence, especially when I think of the fact that till two days ago the place was filled by one of the ablest and most experienced officers of the State. I have been called upon in this session to answer questions relating to a department in which I have not got a very vast experience. All I can promise this House is that I will try my best to do my duty honestly and to the best of my ability during the short period granted to me. I may also say that I am not accustomed to the subtleties and niceties of the legal mind and I do not know how my statements will be interpreted by those legal members. Therefore, I would request this House to make some indulgence if I am not able to answer all the questions satisfactorily. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai sympathised with Mr. Stephenson's position. I feel, he must sympathise much more with mine.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I do not sympathise because I am sure the present Darbar Physician will do her work with much ability. (*Laughter.*)

MRS. MARY POONNEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): What Mr. Velu Pillai said now has comforted me greatly. I feel that this House is a family of which the Head of the Medical Department is the elder sister. I say the elder sister, Sir, and you must pardon me for it, because I hope that in years to come younger sisters also may be born to this House. (Mr. A. Hoogewerf: *Hear, hear.*)

Coming to Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion, he pointed out the necessity for the extension of medical relief in the State and said that there should be more facilities for medical relief. He compared Travancore with Baroda and said that, having regard to the population of the State, medical relief in Travancore is not adequate. We must remember that we are spending on Vaidyasalas and Ayurvedic Institutions about one and a half lakhs of rupees annually and there are also many Mission Hospitals in the State. Of course in these Mission Hospitals, medicines have to be paid for. Still I only say that medical relief is available in all parts of the country. I may assure the House that I would do all in my power to consider the question and I am sure that Government also will do the same. (*Hear, hear.*)

I think Mr. M. N. Pillai pointed out that in-patients have to pay for their treatment in hospitals. I have heard of such cases too, Sir, but in all cases that have come to my notice, I have severely dealt with the offenders. I have been in charge of only one institution in the State and I cannot therefore now answer for the whole Department.

But during the short period I have been ordered to be in charge of this Department, I promise that I shall deal all such cases that come to my notice with the same strictness. (*Hear, hear.*)

[President.]

As for the establishment of a hospital between Lalam and Changanachery I am not in a position to offer any remarks. But, as I said in the beginning, I shall try my best to extend medical relief wherever it is possible.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 279 to 287.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. M. N. PILLAI :—

279. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,743 for Darbar Physician by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

280. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,500 for travelling allowance by Rs. 3,500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :—

281. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,86,300 for purchase of European medicines and surgical instruments by Rs. 26,300.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :—

282. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for bedding and clothing by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :—

283. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for uniform for hospital staff by Rs. 1,000.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

284. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for maintenance of X-ray engine and pumping plant.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI :—

285. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,008 for rents by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :—

286. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,602 for pay of menials by Rs. 1,602.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

287. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,96,129 for Hospitals and Dispensaries by Rs. 100.

Motion 288.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I rise to move the following motion :—

288. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,96,129 for Hospitals and Dispensaries by Rs. 100.

My object in bringing this motion is to draw the attention of Government to the desirability of entrusting the administration of medical institutions within municipal limits, except in the capital, to Municipalities, of appointing honorary surgeons in the important medical institutions and also of introducing the system of grant-in-aid to private medical practitioners.

PRESIDENT: That matter has been referred to the Darbar Physician and it is under the consideration of the Darbar Physician now.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): In view of that I am prepared to withdraw my motion.

PRESIDENT: What I mean to say is that the question of giving grant-in-aid to private practitioners has been referred to the Darbar Physician. The other points have not been referred to the Darbar Physician. You may say what you have got to say on them.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): With regard to the other two matters, I may say that it is one of the primary duties of Municipal Councils to give medical relief to the people within municipal limits. They should be made to contribute towards medical relief to the people in the town. In so far as education is concerned, Government are of opinion that the Municipalities should take up primary education within municipal limits.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether Mr. Sankara Menon thinks that our Municipalities have reached such a stage as to be fit enough to take charge of medical institutions.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): We are advancing. We want responsible government and therefore a training should be given in administrative matters, and if the experiment is successful it must be extended.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is the hospital a democratic institution?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What I say is—

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): May I know whether he proposes to tax the people of the towns and put up another local hospital?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Certainly, Government also must pay.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Are the people to pay additional tax?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The Municipality has to pay.

PRESIDENT: Is it your idea that the control of these hospitals and dispensaries within municipal limits should be transferred to Municipal Councils?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Government should also give financial help.

PRESIDENT: Do you mean that these institutions should be transferred to the Municipalities and subsidised by the Government or that the Municipalities should run these institutions while they are maintained at the cost of the Government?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Administration should be in the hands of the Municipality and the Government should subsidise.

[President.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I know whether he has got an expert medical officer in the Municipal Council to supervise the work of the hospital?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The local medical officer is an official member of the Council.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Does he want him to supervise his own hospital?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Such questions of detail will have to be considered later at the time of the consideration of the proposal.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Taking Quilon as an example, may I know whether Mr. Sankara Menon would desire that the chief medical officer of the Quilon hospital should be under the Municipality or under the Government?

PRESIDENT: He wants him to be under the Municipality, as far as I can see.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The administration should be handed over to the Municipality.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): He is not to be in the general medical service of the State?

PRESIDENT: Services should be lent.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether they propose to give medical aid free or on payment of fees?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): These are details which will have to be worked out and therefore I suggest that the opinion of the Municipal Councils on the point should be obtained and the matter considered by Government.

Another point is about the appointment of honorary surgeons. Now there is no lack of private medical practitioners and there would be persons willing to undertake honorary services.

PRESIDENT: Will they be willing to come and work *gratis*?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: They are quite welcome to do it.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): They will be willing to take up work.

PRESIDENT: Provided they do not interfere with the discipline of the institution, they will be quite welcome, I think.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): That is being tried in Madras.

PRESIDENT: It is being tried in Madras to some extent. The Madras scheme proposes to subsidise private practitioners. At the time of war, a few private practitioners were enlisted as honorary workers, and that was, I believe, only for a very short period.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I know there were two honorary surgeons in the Royapuram hospital.

PRESIDENT: I do not think anybody would object to it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will such doctors be willing to conduct surgical operations free of charge?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): This will create healthy competition among medical men to the advantage of the people. Therefore a trial should be made in that matter. It is with that object that I have brought forward this motion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I rise to oppose the motion. My friend was saying that the hospitals in Municipalities must be brought under municipal control and the finances for the same should come partly from the Municipality and partly from the Government. When such an item of expenditure is also added to the already existing municipal institutions, that would be additional taxation under the head of medical aid.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): To that extent expenses would also be reduced.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): To what purpose that reduction in the budget should be utilised, my friend has not said. In my opinion such a scheme will be taken as another source of indirect taxation. We are having too many of them. The Village Panchayat will be coming down upon us like a falcon which will practically knock away a good portion of the earnings of the villagers and my friend wants to throw another burden on the Municipality which will insist on the municipal authorities imposing upon municipal residents, in some respect or other, fresh taxation on the ground of medical aid. On that ground I object.

Then again a very pertinent question was put by Mr. Nidiry at the time when Mr. Sankara Menon was moving his proposition, *viz.*, whether Municipalities at present can be trusted with the management of hospitals. With all respect to the Municipalities and for the persons concerned in the management of Municipalities, I for one think that they have not attained that stage at which we can entrust to them safely the hospitals of any particular town. On these grounds, I oppose the motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I too oppose the motion. Mr. Sankara Menon has not given us any idea of the advantages to be gained by introducing this innovation. The Travancore Medical Department is being run on splendid lines. I do not know why new-fangled notions should come in here. (*Laughter.*) I do not speak from the financial aspect of the question alone, but from the people's aspect too. Simply because there have been some hospitals in some Municipalities, why should we go and imitate all these things? Let us imitate only what is really good and sound. There are a number of improvements to be made in other directions. I think the Municipalities ought to concentrate their attention on sanitation, the supply of good drinking water and so on. The Medical Department might be left

[Mrs. Mary Poonnen Lukose.]

alone. We have a splendid staff of officers in the Department and it appears to the unnecessary to disturb the present state of affairs.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether we have not got a splendid staff of officers in the Public Works Department and whether the roads are not being handed over by the Government to the charge of Municipalities?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Do the Government pay for the maintenance of these roads?

PRESIDENT: To whom are you putting the question? Mr. Hoogewerf is in possession of the House.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Excuse me. I beg your pardon.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): They are more than splendid. We want to make a deep cut in the P. W. Budget. (*Laughter.*) We want to twist their tail a bit when the time comes. That is not the point just now. If after twisting the tail they do not run properly, then it will be high time to see what should be done. There is a bright future for the Medical Department. We should not deviate from the present state of affairs. As I said before, a woman is in charge and it would be highly improper on our part to disturb the peace, equanimity and the smooth and correct running of the Department just now. For these reasons, I oppose the motion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I am very sorry that I have to oppose the motion. Of course I am aware that this is a democratic age. We all love self-government and home rule and so forth. But the account which I have been able to gather as to the present working of some of the Municipalities is so discouraging that I think we should wait some time more to experiment upon such an important measure as handing over the Medical Department to such bodies. We are already complaining that our people are being heavily taxed and every day new sources of taxation are resorted to, and I am sure if such an experiment is tried, it is sure enough to be followed by additional taxation. Under these circumstances, I think we must wait for some time to come to experiment upon this.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I also oppose the motion on another ground. Even under efficient management, there is great scarcity of even ordinary drugs in the Government hospitals. Sometimes, even Epsom salt which is a necessary and very important drug for daily use is not available in the Government hospitals and I am sure under the Municipalities it will be worse. It can never be so efficient as under Government. And in addition to taxation, which they are sure to impose on the people, they may have to purchase drugs from the local chemists. On that ground, I oppose the motion.

MRS. MARY POONNEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): Sir, the question raised by Mr. Sankara Menon is such a difficult one that I

do not feel I am in a position to say much about it. But, what I feel is a doubt whether the Municipalities will have sufficient money and will have the men necessary for running such an administration. I fear, human lives are far too precious to be entrusted or to be experimented upon in such a way. (*Laughter.*) Roads may be experimented upon, but not human lives (*laughter*); and unless I have more details regarding the proposition, I do not want to say anything further at present.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): A word in reply. The question of finance does not arise for consideration. Whether Municipalities should wholly finance the institutions or the Government should contribute wholly or in part are not relevant to the question.

PRESIDENT: Unless you want the Government to incur the whole cost as they do now, the Municipalities will have necessarily to find some portion at least of the funds required.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): If the management of roads, sanitation of towns, and management of education are handed over to the Municipalities by making some contributions from the Government, I do not see how medical institutions stand on a different footing from those of the other duties of Municipalities. The giving of medical relief is a primary duty of the Municipality.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is it not a discretionary duty of the Municipality?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): It forms an optional duty, I know, under the Regulation.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I know whether any municipality has at least an Ayurvedic dispensary?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): There is a proposal and I believe they are considering the question. Some of the Municipalities at any rate are considering that question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the advantage to be gained by this innovation? (*Laughter.*)

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The advantage is that, as a body has been created for purposes of local administration, they should be entrusted with certain powers and that will give the people a training in local administration.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will there be no supervision by the Darbar Physician?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): It is a matter of detail.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Is it a question of unemployment?

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): It seems to me, Sir, that, if certain branches of administration could be handed over, I do not see why this also should not be handed over to the Municipalities.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion, Mr. Sankara Menon?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Council adjourned at 5-15 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. the next day.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECOND SESSION, 1099.

(Adjourned Meeting.)

Friday, 26th September, 1924.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-five of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12—*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Women.

87. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the Physics laboratory was not fitted up during the vacation as recommended by the Lady Principal and the Director of Public Instruction?

(*b*) Is it a fact that practical work is impossible till and while these alterations are made?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the extensions recommended by the Lady Principal, *viz.*, providing a lecture room, a work room, and a store room, have not been carried out?

(*d*) Why has not the Chemistry Lecturer been appointed from the re-opening of the college, as recommended by the Lady Principal?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The Lady Principal has addressed the Ag. Director of Public Instruction in the matter and action is being taken by him. No recommendation has been received by the Government in the matter.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) There was no provision for the work in the Public Works Department Budget for 1099 M. E. Provision has not been made for the work in the draft budget for 1100 M. E.

G. P. T. 1056. 310. 26-9.24.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

(*d*) Further correspondence had to be carried on with the Ag. Director of Public Instruction in the matter. Final orders have now been issued.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to the answer to part (*a*) of the question, will the Government be pleased to state when the Lady Principal made the recommendation to the Director of Public Instruction regarding the Physics laboratory?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Lady Principal made her recommendation to the Director of Public Instruction. Government do not know when that recommendation was made. But the Government do know that the information which the Lady Principal furnished in connection with her recommendation was incomplete and that the Director had to write back to the Lady Principal for further information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How do the Government know that when they say in the answer that no recommendation has been received by the Government in the matter?

PRESIDENT: By referring to the Director.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Director has not made any recommendation in regard to the carrying out of the work in question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When was the recommendation made by the Lady Principal?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not know the exact date. But I know, as already stated, that the information furnished by the Lady Principal to the Director was incomplete and that the Director had to write back for further information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When was all this done?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not quite sure of it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was not the recommendation made long long ago?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does it not mean that the laboratory will not be fitted up for another year?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It may not be fitted up for another year.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to part (*c*) of the question, may I know when this recommendation was made for providing a lecture room, a work room and a store room by the Lady Principal?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): One of the chairs is missing.

PRESIDENT: I see there is a vacant chair there. Is there any label on it?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): All the chairs here are labelled.

PRESIDENT: Anyhow the vacant chair may be occupied.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If the President will authorise, that is all right.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No recommendation has come to the Government and the Government are not aware when the recommendation was made.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is, when was the Lady Principal's recommendation made to the Director of Public Instruction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I shall enquire. I have not got the information ready now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How is it that no provision has been made in the present budget for this?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter came up for consideration at the time of preparing the budget and the Government then thought that the work was not so urgent as certain others for which provision had to be made in the budget for 1100.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to the answer to part (*d*) of the question, may I know when the recommendation was made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I believe the recommendation was made in June. Further correspondence had to be carried on and orders were finally communicated in July 1924.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the nature of the order? Has the Chemistry Lecturer been appointed?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; Mr. Fenn has been appointed to that post.

Testing the Quality of Salt.

88. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) If salt should be fit for consumption, at what degree should it be scraped?

(*b*) At what degree is the salt scraped in the several factories in South Travancore?

(*c*) If salt is scraped at 32° and above, is it fit for consumption?

(*d*) Is brine tested in every pan before scraping salt?

(*e*) If so, how often did the Excise Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioners check the brine, and what are the registers, if any, maintained for the purpose?

[MR. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

(*f*) If testing is carried on, is it done by the Inspector or by any of his subordinates?

(*g*) Has the Assistant Commissioner or Excise Commissioner tested the hydrometers in use to see whether they are in order and whether they read correctly?

(*h*) Is there any rule about the percentage of the pans to be tested each day by the Inspector?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) As a general rule, salt scraped between 28° and 30° is fit for consumption. But experience has shown that salt scraped between 30° and 32° is also fit for consumption.

(*b*) In all the factories in South Travancore, except Tamaracolam old *allom* and Rajakkamangalam, salt is scraped at 30°. In the latter two factories, salt is generally scraped between 30° and 32.°

(*c*) Salt scraped at 32° is found to be fit for consumption. No salt is scraped at above 32.°

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The Assistant Excise Commissioner check-tests the brine several days in the month and the result is recorded in the scraping register. The Excise Commissioner has occasionally checked the brine during his visits to the factories.

(*f*) The testing is carried on both by the Inspector and his Petty Officers.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) There is no specific rule. But the Assistant Excise Commissioner allots the number of pans to be tested each day by the Inspector and Petty Officers at his discretion and usually 5 per cent. of the pans tested by the Petty Officers are checked by the Inspector.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to assure me that salt is not being scraped at the old factory at Tamaracolam at 32° and above?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer to that is contained in part (*b*). I can give no more assurance to MR. Hoogewerf than that given to the Government by the Excise Commissioner.

Stationing of Police Officers.

89. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Do the Government consider it proper to keep police officers in the same station for more than three years?

(*b*) Are there instances of such officers being kept in the same place for more than that period?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list of such officers with the reasons for their retention in the same place for more than three years?

(d) If any such officers are kept in their native places, will the Government give their names separately?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) It is a matter of opinion.

(b) Yes.

(c) The list* is placed on the table.

(d) Mr. R. Achyutan Pillai, Prosecuting Inspector, Trivandrum, is the only officer who has been kept in his native place for more than three years.

Castewar Statement of Head Clerks in the Munsiffs' Courts.

90. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a castewar statement of the Head Clerks of the various Munsiffs' Courts in the State?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

Brahmins	...	16.
Nayars	...	10.
Christians	...	7.
Other Hindus	...	1.

Lighting in Trivandrum.

91. MR M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (a) Have the Government any scheme to improve the lighting of the city with electricity?

(b) Are they aware that the lighting of the city is in a deplorable condition and that no steps are taken by the authorities to improve the same though there is much public complaint in the matter?

MR. R KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Yes. A scheme prepared by the Industrial Engineer is under consideration.

(b) It is reported that the existing lights are maintained properly.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state how long it will take for the introduction of electric lighting in the town of Trivandrum?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are unable to say exactly when it will be possible to introduce electric lights in the town of Trivandrum.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will they be pleased to state what is the cost of gas lighting in Trivandrum now per annum?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is not a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: It is. You may answer it if you can.

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* *Vide* appendix —page 760.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the information now. I shall call for it if the member so desires.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are the Government aware that gas lighting is very costly, and that it is five times the cost of ordinary kerosene light?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*); I have no information.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any proposal to discontinue gas lighting?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In the event of electric installation being introduced, there will be no necessity for continuing gas lights.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are the Government not in receipt of the Workshop Committee's Report?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Have they gone through it?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*); Are they aware that almost all the kerosene light chimneys are broken? It is stated in the answer that the existing lights are maintained properly.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*); I am not aware.

Appendix.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 89.**

List of Police Officers who have served more than three years in their present station.

Name.	Station.	Reason for retention.
1. E. V. Abraham ...	Quilon	These are Prosecuting Inspectors.
2. R. Achyutan Pillai ...	Trivandrum	
3. P. Krishna Menon ...	Nagercoil	
4. V. Sivasankara Pillai ...	Trivandrum	Doing duty as Reserve Inspector.
5. M. C. Philip ...	Kotamangalam	It is reported that there has been no complaint against him.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Regulation, I beg to place on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under Section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation, II of 1097, under Demand XXII—Miscellaneous—Rs. 46,900, being the amount sanctioned from State funds for flood relief for 1099:—

	Amount. Rs.	Remarks.
Demand XXII—Miscellaneous.	46,900	The amount sanctioned from State funds for flood relief.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (*Contd.*)

DEMAND XV—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (*Contd.*)

Motion 289 to 291.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

289. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,96,129 for Hospitals and Dispensaries by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

290. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,500 for Bacteriological Laboratory by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

291. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,450 for Special Investigation Officer.

Motion 292.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

292. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·40 lakhs under Demand XV by Rs. 100.

I make this motion in order to discuss the question of amalgamating the Medical and Sanitary Departments. Now these two depratments are separate and two highly-paid officers are appointed to supervise these Departments. For the Darbar Physician's office alone a sum of Rs. 23,400 is provided in the budget for 1100 and for the Sanitary Commissioner's, the sum provided is Rs. 15,988. My contention is that these two Departments can be efficiently supervised by the Darbar Physician with the aid of an assistant, and that by the amalgamation some saving can be made in the expenditure. The Sanitary Department took its origin in 1040 M. E. as the Vaccination Department, and it was then under the Darbar Physician. In 1070, the Government recognised the

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

importance of vital statistics registration as the basis for sanitation and arrangements were made for the collection and registration of vital statistics in rural areas. An officer was appointed to centralise the work, who was called Sanitary Commissioner, and the conservancy staff employed under Tahsildars was handed over to the Sanitary Commissioner along with the Vaccination Department. Gradually the control of epidemics with the assistance of the Medical Department was entrusted to him. The first Sanitary Commissioner was Mr. N. Subrahmanya Aiyar who was succeeded by Mr. M. S. Krishnamurti Aiyar. Thereafter the same functions were fulfilled by the Sanitary Department with certain modifications in the *modus operandi*. After the organisation of the Sanitary Department, the Inspectors of Vaccination were given control of the conservancy stations and made responsible for taking preventive measures against epidemics in the State, and they were styled Sanitary Officers.

Now, the main duty of the Sanitary Department is vaccination. Their subsidiary duties are in connection with rural sanitation, sanitation of markets, registration of vital statistics and health propaganda. In municipal towns, where vaccination is compulsory, there are separate vaccinators appointed by municipalities. In estates and other places, vaccination is done by medical officers. In places where vaccination is optional, the Sanitary Department has not got much work to do. The Sanitary Department, as it is at present constituted, will not be in a position to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases as there are no expert doctors and adequate equipments in the Sanitary Department. The only work which they do in connection with small-pox and cholera is to vaccinate individuals and to recommend the sinking of wells in certain localities. The registration of births and deaths in municipalities is done by the municipal authorities themselves. It is well known that vital statistics registration in Travancore is very defective. Vital statistics return is compulsory only in towns. In police towns, the conservancy overseers and in rural areas the *proverthikars* are entrusted with this work.

With the existing staff in the Sanitary Department and with the deputation of competent men in times of necessity, it is possible for the Darbar Physician to efficiently supervise both the Sanitary and Medical Departments. The scheme which the Sanitary Commissioner has submitted to the Government for the propagation of the principles of hygiene and public health cannot in my opinion be properly brought to fruition with the existing staff in the Sanitary Department, as most of them are not as qualified as the medical officers for that kind of work. The work which the Sanitary Officers did in this direction in 1098 was some kind of informal talk with people on 142 occasions. In Travancore, the Sanitary Commissioner is in charge of rural conservancy and vaccination. He has also to inspect municipalities. I think that these duties can be properly

performed by the Darbar Physician with an assistant, if necessary, and his subordinates. I advocate the amalgamation of the Sanitary and Medical Departments, not only for the purpose of retrenchment in expenditure but also for the sake of efficiency. The public health of the State cannot be adequately safeguarded with the present staff in the Sanitary Department. There are some taluks in Travancore which are noted for peculiar chronic diseases, for example, Shertallai and Ambalapuzha for elephantiasis, Karunagapalli for leprosy, and some other taluks for consumption. It is the duty of the Public Health Department to investigate the causes of these diseases in such localities and to find remedies for the same. In Madras, 17 per cent. of the total revenue is spent for rural sanitation. Here, we do not spend even 5 per cent. of our revenue for the purpose. While in Madras a sum of one anna and odd is spent per individual on sanitation, we are spending only 1/3 of an anna. Rural sanitation is a myth, and nothing is done in villages to improve the sanitation or health of the people. To remedy these defects and to improve public health, I think that the organisation of a Public Health Department combining the Medical and Sanitary Departments is necessary. It is with a view to discuss this aspect of the health problem that I have made this motion.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): May I ask whether the Public Health Department has not been separated from the Medical Department in the Madras Presidency?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I am not speaking of the Madras Presidency.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to support the motion. I do not think that the Sanitary Department has justified its existence. As was said by Mr. Madhava Variar, nothing practical has been done to reduce the Shertallai leg. It is as fat and stout as it was before.

PRESIDENT: Is it the function of the Sanitary Department?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It can take steps and find out ways and means to eradicate this disease.

Locomotion is very easy now. Before, we had to travel in country carts; now, when we have motor cars and buses, conveyances for ver, speedy locomotion, what is the necessity for duplicating this function? Both for the sake of efficiency and for the sake of reducing the financ burden, I think, with an assistant to the Darbar Physician, this wo can be better and more economically and efficiently carried on by Department as it used to be done before.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I support the motion brought forward by my friend Mr. Madhava Variar I had also sent in a similar motion and it is tabled as motion 307 Since the arguments which I have to advance have been alread, advanced by my friend, I think that my work is lightened. I may, how ever, be permitted to add a word in this connection. I believe it was

[President.]

one of the recommendations of the Salaries Committee that these two departments may be amalgamated safely and with advantage both for their proper working and also for saving money. As a member of that Committee, I am only sorry that Government did not try that method. I am also of opinion that the arguments advanced by my friend are more or less convincing. The suggestion made from the official side is that the departments are separated in the Madras Presidency, and that therefore we should adopt that system here also. But I may be permitted to say, by way of reply, that Madras is a big presidency and Travancore is a very small Indian State.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I have also very great pleasure in supporting the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar. The question raised by Mr. R. Krishna Pillai, Chief Secretary to Government, whether there does not exist a separate Department for sanitation in the Madras Presidency does not lead to any serious consternation so far as Travancore is concerned. As was observed by Mr. Nidiry, Travancore is a small Indian State, and not extensive like the Madras Presidency. I think the area is a factor to be taken into consideration when an attempt to amalgamate the two departments is contemplated. Such a difficult problem does not present itself in the case of Travancore, and judging from past experience I may safely predict that the situation is easy. For example, during the time of Mr. Murari S. Krishnamurti Aiyar, we observed that the Sanitary Commissioner was mainly engaged in the work of the census and that the Sanitary Department could take care of itself even in the absence of any direction from the Sanitary Commissioner. In the case of other Sanitary Commissioners also we have observed the same tendency. For, during the time of Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar— then known as Dr. Subrahmanya Aiyar— he was also engaged in this sort of miscellaneous work of writing the Census Report and that sort of thing. So, the Sanitary Commissioner, when the Department is intrinsically considered, seems to be a sort of miscellaneous officer who appears to have been created more in a desire to imitate the methods elsewhere than with a view really to benefit the people. Regarding the theories of medicine known respectively as combative theory and preventive theory, whatever may have been the opinion of medical men in former times, even the strongest advocates of the allopathic system are now recognising the fact that the preventive method will have to be employed more and more. So the idea that the Sanitary Department should be under the control of the best medical officer, as far as possible, is a very good idea and deserves at least a trial in our State. Here, for instance, just after the subsidence of the flood in my own taluk—the Ambalapuzha taluk—there seems to be some talk of the outbreak of certain indefinable sorts of diseases among people—complaint of stomach troubles—

PRESIDENT: May I tell you that I have just received an official report which says that there is no such outbreak of any disease in the flood-affected area. You may attach any importance you like to official reports.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very sorry I cannot attach any importance to that report, whoever be the officer that sent it. For, I have just returned from the identical area and the people there have been complaining that many people are somehow or other indisposed and they are unable to get the diseases properly diagnosed. I myself wanted to move the authorities. I was not certain which authority I should move, whether it was the Sanitary Department or the Medical Department. My idea is that the medical officer of the Ambalapuzha or Alleppey Hospital may be deputed to go round with some sort of circulating hospital attached to him. Meanwhile, these sanitary people are the people who have made the report that there is nothing wrong with public health.

PRESIDENT: The report is not made by the Sanitary Department.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): So far as the sanitary people are concerned, I can more or less imagine the sort of work and the sort of report they resort to. Even when pestilence rages in a part of the country these people know nothing about it and make gaudy reports stating that the situation is all right and that nothing need be done in the particular areas. So, I am submitting that I have had real complaints carried to me and I wanted the Central Committee to do something in the matter. I was considering whom to move. In the separation of the Sanitary Department—

PRESIDENT: You could have moved the Government, if you had felt any doubt.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is therefore that I am placing all these facts here before you, Sir. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Was it the people who were suffering that came and told you?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes, people in the area, Sir.

PRESIDENT: There is one advantage in moving the Government in regard to this complaint.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But the difficulty in moving the Government is this. By the time the Government is moved and steps are taken through the department, many of the people will cease to have the trouble. (*Laughter.*) That is the trouble. Immediately something should be done. I think that either the Darbar Physician or the Sanitary Commissioner or somebody else will have to be on the move. But being left in doubt as to whom to approach, I am just placing all these facts before you for such action as you or the Darbar Physician present amongst us may take.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is Mr. Narayana Pillai not aware that the Sanitary Department was separated from the Medical Department to give Dr. Subrahmanya Aiyar independent charge?

PRESIDENT: With a view to give independent charge?

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, with a view to—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): With respect to that, Sir, I have not been studying the history of the separation of the two departments. Most probably that appears to be the fact.

PRESIDENT: Is it a fact or an inference?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is only an inference.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മിസ്റ്റർ മാധവവാരിയരുടെ പ്രമേയത്തോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നില്ല. മിസ്റ്റർ മാധവവാരിയർ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു കാരണമായിട്ടുള്ളത് ഇന്നത്തെ സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന ജോലികളേയും അതിൽനിന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സിദ്ധിക്കുന്ന ഉപകാരത്തേയും വിചാരിച്ചായിരിക്കാം. ഇന്നത്തെ സാനിട്ടറിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രയോജനപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. വിശേഷിച്ചും സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൊണ്ട് ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രയോജനമൊന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നില്ല എന്നു പറയാൻ എനിക്കശേഷം മടിതോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഒരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു വേണ്ടി ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് ഇത്ര വളരെ പണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിനെക്കാൾ അതിനെ മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടു യോജിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും എന്നുള്ള മിസ്ററർ വാരിയരുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഞാൻ ആദരിക്കുന്നില്ല. അത് എതുപോലെ എന്നാൽ എലിയെ ഭയന്നു വീടു ചുടുന്നതുപോലെയാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും തകരാറുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ നന്നാക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കയല്ലാതെ അതിനെ വേണ്ടെന്നു വയ്ക്കുന്ന നയം ഒരിക്കലും നല്ലതല്ല. ഇതിനെ മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുമായിട്ടു ചേക്കുന്നതിനാലുള്ള വൈഷമ്യം വളരെയുണ്ട്. ഓരോ ആശുപത്രികളിലും മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസരന്മാരെ കൂടുതലായി നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതായിവരും. ഇപ്പോൾ മെഡിക്കലാപ്പീസരന്മാർ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ വരുന്ന രോഗികളുടെ സംഖ്യയനുസരിച്ച് അവരുടെ സമയം അവിടെ വിനിയോഗിക്കേണ്ടതായിവരും. അതിനുപുറമേ അവരെക്കൊണ്ട് ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടപോലെ നിർവഹിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതിനും മററും സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ ഉണ്ടല്ലോ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിലേക്ക് ഇന്നത്തെ അസിസ്ററൻറു സാനിട്ടറി ആഫീസറന്മാർ ഉണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. അവരുടെ പ്രയോജനകുറവുകൊണ്ടാണല്ലോ മിസ്ററർ മാധവവാര്യർ തന്നെ ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയ കാലത്ത് അതായത് ദിവാൻ ശങ്കരസുബയ്യർ അവർകളുടെ കാലത്ത് ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ അനുസരിച്ച് അവർ മരുന്നുകളോടുകൂടി സഞ്ചരിക്കണമെന്നും ഓരോഗ്രാമത്തിലേയും രോഗികൾക്ക് അവരിൽനിന്നും വൈദ്യസഹായം കിട്ടണമെന്നും ആയിരുന്നു. കാലക്രമംകൊണ്ട് ആ ഉദ്ദേശം മാറി അവരുടെ ജോലി ഗോവസൂരിപ്രയോഗം മാത്രമായിതീർന്നു. കുറച്ചുകാലത്തിനു മുൻപ് ഇരണിയൽ താലൂക്കിൽ കലശലായ മസൂരിരോഗം ഉണ്ടായി. വീടുകളിൽ മരിച്ചുകിടക്കുന്ന ആളുകളെ മാററുന്നതിനുപോലും നിർവാഹമില്ലാത്ത നിലയിലായിതീർന്നു. അങ്ങനെവന്നപ്പോൾ ഞാൻതന്നെ ഇവിടെവന്നു ദിവാൻജിഅവർകളോടു പറകയും ഗവർൺമെൻറു വടക്കൻദിക്കിൽ സക്കീട്ടുപോയിരുന്ന സാനിട്ടറികമ്മിഷണരെ കമ്പി അടിച്ചുവരുത്തി ഇരണിയലേക്കു അയയ്ക്കുകയുംചെയ്തു. അങ്ങിനെ ആ സ്ഥലത്തേയ്ക്കയച്ചതിൽ പിന്നീട് അദ്ദേഹം അവിടെചെന്നു നടത്തിയ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പററി ഇവിടെ പറയാതിരിക്കയാണ് നല്ലതു. സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൊണ്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ലെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ വേണ്ടപോലെ പരിഷ്കരിച്ച് ഉൾനാട്ടുകൾക്കുകൂടി പ്രയോജനകരമാക്കിത്തീർക്കയാണ് വേണ്ടത്. അതിനെ മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുമായിട്ട് യോജിപ്പിച്ചാൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുന്നതല്ല. സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറാഫീസർമാർ ഹാസ്പിററൽ അസിസ്ററൻറു പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളായിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. മുൻകാലത്തു നടന്നുവന്നിരുന്ന ഏർപ്പാടുപോലെ അവരെ മരുന്നുകൾ ഏല്പിക്കയും, അവരുടെ സഞ്ചാരങ്ങളിൽ കാണുന്ന രോഗികൾക്ക് അവർ വൈദ്യസഹായംചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയും അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ ഒരാളായിരുന്നാൽ പോരേ?

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അത് എല്ലാസംഗതിയിലും ആളിന്റെ യോഗ്യതകളെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കും. തക്ക യോഗ്യന്മാരായ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരെ കിട്ടുമെങ്കിൽ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളെ ഒരാളിൽ ഭരമേല്പിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. അതു ലാഭമായിത്തീരുന്നതുമാണ്. അങ്ങനെ നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ കൃഷി, വനം, വ്യവസായം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളെ ഭരിക്കാൻ സമർത്ഥനായ ഒരാൾ കിട്ടുന്നപക്ഷം അതിലേക്ക് ഒരു അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനെ ആക്കാവുന്നതാണല്ലോ. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളേയും ശരിയായി ഭരണം നടത്തിക്കിട്ടാൻ ശ്രമാവഹമായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ കാലത്ത് ഒന്നിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളെ കൂട്ടിച്ചേർക്കുന്നകാര്യം ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനേയും സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനേയും ഒന്നിച്ചു ചേർക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുന്നതിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യം വരുത്തുന്നതിനും സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകാരെക്കൊണ്ടു ഉൾനാടുകളിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു മാത്രമല്ല പട്ടണവാസികൾക്കു കൂടിയും പറയത്തക്ക ഗുണമൊന്നും ഇപ്പോഴില്ല.

ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലും മററും ഈ ഏർപ്പാടു വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കാം. അവിടങ്ങളിൽ ഗ്രാമരീതിസമ്പ്രദായമാണ്; ഇവിടെയെല്ലാം ഒററയൊററയായി വീടുകൾ വച്ചാണ് ആളുകൾ താമസിക്കുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെ രാജ്യം ഒട്ടുക്കാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ താമസം; അവിടവിടെ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നായിച്ചേർന്നല്ല. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഓരോ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും പകർച്ചവ്യാധികൾ പിടിപെട്ടാൽ അതിനെ സാനിട്ടറി വകുപ്പുകാരെ കൊണ്ടു ശമിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു വളരെ പ്രയാസമുണ്ടു. എന്നാൽ അതതു സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള മെഡിക്കലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് ജനങ്ങളോടു ചോദിച്ചു വിവരം അറിഞ്ഞു മരുന്നുകൾ അയച്ചുകൊടുത്തും മററും അവയെ ശമിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ സൌകര്യമുണ്ടു്. അവരിൽ നിന്നാണ് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ സഹായം ലഭിച്ചുവരുന്നതും. എന്നാൽ ഇത്രയും സഹായംപോലും സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകാരെ കൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഡാക്ടർമാർക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ മററുജോലികളോടുകൂടി ഇതും വഹിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ വിഷമമായിട്ടാണ്

വന്നിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് സാനിട്ടറി വകുപ്പിലെ ചെറിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസറന്മാരുടെ കീഴിൽ ആശുപത്രികളിൽ നിയമിക്കണമെന്ന് ആദ്യമേ പറഞ്ഞതു. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ദോഷത്തിനു വളരെ നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാകുമായിരുന്നു. നാട്ടുമ്പുറങ്ങളിലെക്കാൾ പട്ടണങ്ങളിലാണ്, അധികം സാംക്രമികരോഗങ്ങളുണ്ടാകുന്നത്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ ചെറുതും വലുതുമായ പട്ടണങ്ങളിലാണ് ജനങ്ങളിൽ അധികപങ്കും വസിക്കുന്നതു. വിഷൂചികയുടെ കാലത്തു കിണറുകളിൽ പൊട്ടാസ്യംപെർമാങ്ങനേററ് ഇട്ട് വെള്ളത്തിലെ അണുകൃമികളെ നശിപ്പിച്ചുംമററും പകർച്ച തടയുവാൻ അവിടെ സാനിട്ടറിക്കാർക്കു അധികസൌകര്യമുണ്ട്. ഇവിടത്തെ ഭൂമിയുടെ നിമ്നോന്നതാവസ്ഥയും തൊഴിൽസാമ്പ്രദായവും മററുമനുസരിച്ച്, ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഭവനങ്ങൾ മിക്കവാറും വയൽകളുടെ ചരിവുകളിലുംമററും ഒററയൊററയായിട്ടാണ് സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ സാനിട്ടറി വകുപ്പിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു സാംക്രമികരോഗങ്ങളെ തടുക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടതു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുവാൻ തക്ക സൌകര്യവിധത്തിലല്ല ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതി. അതിനാൽ മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസറന്മാരോടു ചേർത്തു സാനിട്ടറി ആഫീസറന്മാരെ കൂടി വയ്ക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും കാര്യനടത്തിപ്പിന് എളുപ്പം.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I oppose the motion. There has been a lot of complaint that the Sanitary Department has not been doing its duties efficiently. Some years ago, in the Popular Assembly, financial considerations induced me to advocate the proposal which is now before the House. Along with my friend Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, if I remember correct, I also asked for the amalgamation of the Sanitary Department and the Medical Department and the prominent motive was to prevent waste of public funds. True it is that efficient sanitation is not come across most parts of Travancore and epidemics have been visiting villages more frequently than the Sanitary Commissioner. Therefore, there is some justification for us in thinking that the officers and the staff of a Department, which cost such a large sum of money to Government, being inefficient in their work, the benefit of which does not reach the common people, could be abolished with impunity. But, however, I think it is not proper to consider that question now for two reasons more than others. The Department has been in existence for a good many years and it is as a result of the deliberate policy of His Highness the late Maha Raja of Travancore, who thought that the separate maintenance of the two departments was necessary, and as a result of statesmanship which is now recognised throughout India. Now, I do not think it will be proper to agitate that question at the present juncture, particularly because the present

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

Darbar Physician to whom we gave a hearty welcome is new to the Department. And in a matter like this, the opinion of the Darbar Physician should be very useful to the Council.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not Mr. Velu Pillai think that, since the present Darbar Physician is new to the Department, she will work with great enthusiasm and that better results could be shown than by a man who was pretty long in the Department?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not question the enthusiasm. But the Head of the Department ought to be guided by other considerations besides enthusiasm. A deliberate policy laid down as a result of experience of departmental affairs should be followed if the change is not one of admitted advantage. For obvious reasons, the Darbar Physician will not be able to move about the country as often as the exigencies of the two departments would demand. One department is sufficiently heavy. If, however, the Darbar Physician and the Government come to the conclusion that an effective control of the Sanitary Department could be provided for by the Medical Department and if this House adopts that conclusion, then it may be considered later on, and I think one year's experience would be useful. Financial considerations alone ought not to weigh with us. So I would request the mover to consider the aspect that I have placed before him and postpone the consideration of this question till next year.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I oppose the motion. I am of opinion that these two departments should be separate. The present working of the Sanitary Department is not very satisfactory, and that is the reason, I think, why Mr. Madhava Variar brought forward this motion. It requires some investigation to say how it could be made useful to the public. If both these departments are to be amalgamated, I think the work of both the departments would suffer. If we do not have separate sanitary officers in each district, the medical men in charge of Hospitals and Dispensaries would not have time to attend to rural sanitation. Even now, we see that in some of the adjoining villages like Punturai the whole place is like a regular hell. We are not able to enter the village on account of its filthy condition. It is managed so badly.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Does not Mr. M. N. Pillai know that for so many years this has been so under the very nose of the head of the Sanitary Department?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is therefore that I say that Government should insist that the officer in charge of the Department looks into these matters and that the Sanitary Commissioner exercises an effective control over his subordinates in all these matters. That ought to be the policy of the Government. I am quite opposed to the amalgamation of these two departments.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in Charge*): Sir, I confess I have not sufficient knowledge of the working of the Sanitary Detpartment in Travancore to enable me to meet the arguments brought forward by Mr. Madhava Variar, nor have I enough experience of the Medical Department, as a whole, to speak with any authority on the subject. But, with what little experience I have been able to gain in my own hospital, and with some ideas of public health and sanitation that I have, I think that, as we stand at present, no purpose would be served by the amalgamation of the two departments. The question is too big and important a one for me to say very much at a moment's notice. The Darbar Physician's duties are such that, if properly carried out, they will engage his whole attention, and this House has on several occasions urged the importance of inspections and touring by the Darbar Physician. I think it was Mr. Hoogewerf who repeatedly said that the Darbar Physician must travel throughout the country and get first-hand information. Combined with that, there are other duties of the Darbar Physician ; and if in addition to all these, the Darbar Physician is to have the charge of the Sanitary Department also, I do not know, Sir, whether the work could be efficiently done. I will quote an example. Suppose the Darbar Physician has gone on inspection to somewhere in North Travancore and some epidemic breaks out in some distant part of the State and at the same time the Darbar Physician is required in the Capital.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Cannot the Superintendent or some other assistant in the Sanitary Department work under the Darbar Physician? There was a Superintendent in the Sanitary Department. Dr. Subrahmania Aiyar himself was Superintendent of Vaccination. Such a Superintendent may be asked to work under the Darbar Physician.

PRESIDENT: You do not effect any saving thereby.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): A low-paid Sanitary Officer may be asked to work under the Darbar Physician for assisting him in sanitary work.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in Charge*): This is how it appears to me at present. I think there will be unnecessary expenditure without compensatory gain.

On the other hand, the head of the Sanitary Department is a fully-qualified medical man who ought to be able to deal with sanitary matters just as well as a Medical man in the Department.

With regard to the question of travelling, I can assure the House that there need be no apprehension that, because a lady has been appointed as head of the department, travelling work must suffer. I am prepared to travel just as much as men did before or even more. (Mr. A. Hoogewerf: *Hear, hear.*) I have no hesitation in saying that. I understand that there is an impression among some people that, because a lady has been appointed as head of the Medical Department, she will not be able to travel much.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

Coming again to the question of the amalgamation of the two departments, I think, if efficiency will not suffer, the House may have an assurance from the Government that they will consider the matter deliberately and see if any good can be done by combining the two departments.

Then again, about rural sanitation, it is very difficult to compare rural sanitation in Travancore and in other parts of India. The geography of the country is different. I admit that not much is spent on rural sanitation here. In British parts, people in villages live together, whereas, in Travancore, houses are differently built and there are elevations and depressions and hills and valleys which do not allow the kind of drainage system that is seen in British India. It is therefore that a less amount is being spent on rural sanitation in Travancore than elsewhere. I do admit the great importance of preventive medicines. It is really a very important matter. It is the Sanitary Department along with the Medical Department that can help to work up this side of medicine.

I think it was Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai who referred to some diseases caused by the floods. It was only this morning that the matter was brought to my notice, *viz.*, that there were some diseases in some villages about eight miles from Alleppey—I forget the names of the places.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Pulinkunnu.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in Charge*): Yes, it is Pulinkunnu. I have ordered a Medical Officer from Alleppey to be deputed to this station and the order goes to-day.

Again, as regards the amalgamation of the two departments, the reason advanced by the member seems to be that the Sanitary Department is not working satisfactorily. At least that appears to be the public opinion. If that is so, I think the proper thing to do is to improve the Sanitary Department rather than combine the two departments, which I am afraid, would mean less of efficiency than at present. That is all that I have to say about this motion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): On the assurance that the question will be considered by Government, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 293.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലേക്കു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന അഞ്ചു ലക്ഷത്തി നാല്പത്തീരായിരം രൂപായിൽ ൧൦൦ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ

കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയം. അത് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ഭരണ നയത്തെപ്പററി പ്രസ്താവിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടിമാത്രമാണ്.

ആതുരസംരക്ഷണത്തിനായി വലുതായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അത് ഡാക്ടർമാരിൽ പലരുടേയും അധികമായ അത്ഥാഗ്രഹംകൊണ്ടു പ്രയോജനമില്ലാതെ തീരുന്നു എന്നു ഞാൻ പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിലേക്കു പല നിവൃത്തിമാറ്റങ്ങരം ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ഉപയോഗിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഒന്നാമതായി ആശുപത്രികളുടെ മുൻവശത്തു നാട്ടുഭാഷയിൽ, ഡാക്ടർമാക്കു രോഗികളെ കാണ്മാൻ പോകുന്നതിനു മൈൽ ഒന്നിന് ഇത്രരൂപാ പടി കൊടുക്കണം എന്നു കാണിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ബോഡ് എഴുതിവയ്ക്കണം. എത്ര കൊടുത്താലും ചിലക്കു തൃപ്തിയില്ല. ഞാൻ ഡാക്ടർമാരെ കുററപ്പെടുത്തി പറയുകയല്ല. ഇതാണ് അവരുടെ സമ്പ്രദായം. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ഉരംഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വിശേഷിച്ച് ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും സഞ്ചാരസൌകര്യം കുറവാകയാൽ രോഗികളെ ആശുപത്രിക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുക പ്രയാസമാണ്. വല്ല വാഹനങ്ങളിലും എടുത്തു കൊണ്ടു പോകാമെന്നുവച്ചാൽ അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ രോഗി മരിച്ചുപോയി എന്നുവരാം. ജനങ്ങളിലധികവും ധനവാന്മാരല്ലല്ലോ. സാധുക്കളായ കൃഷിക്കാർ കൃഷിക്കുപയോഗമുള്ള കാളകളോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ വീട്ടുപകരണങ്ങളോ വിറേറാ പണയപ്പെടുത്തിയോ ആയിരിക്കും ഡാക്ടക്കു പടി കൊടുക്കുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെ കൊടുത്താലും അവരെ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുത്താൻ വളരെ പ്രയാസമാണ്. പടിക്കുംപുറമേ ചികിത്സയുടെ പ്രതിഫലമായിട്ടുംഅവക്കൊരു സംഖ്യകൊടുക്കണം. പടിഎന്താണെന്നും പ്രതിഫലമെന്താണെന്നും തിരിച്ചുപറയാൻ ഇപ്പോരംപ്രയാസം. ഞാൻ ഒരിക്കൽ ഇതിനെപ്പററി ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യനുമായി കണ്ടുസംസാരിച്ചപ്പോരം ഡാക്ടറന്മാക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ട പടിയെപ്പററി പണ്ടു സക്കാർ ഗസററിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ സാധാരണ ഉരം നാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങരംക്കു പണ്ടത്തെ ഗസററു നോക്കി അറിയാൻ കഴിവില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ബോഡു വയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു നഷ്ടമൊന്നുമില്ലല്ലോ.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): അങ്ങനെ ഒരു ബോർഡു വയ്ക്കുയാണെങ്കിൽ രോഗികരംക്കു ഡാക്ടർമാരെ കിട്ടാൻ വളരെ പ്രയാസമായിത്തീരും എന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞിത്തൊമ്മനറിയാമോ?

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഡാക്ടർമാരെ കിട്ടാൻ പ്രയാസമുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. അഥവാ അങ്ങനെവന്നാൽ മേലധികാരി വേണ്ട നിവൃത്തിവരുത്തണം.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) "ഇപ്പോൾ സമയമില്ല. അത്യാവശ്യമായി ഒരുരോഗിയെ നോക്കാനുണ്ട്" എന്നു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ—

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അകാരണമായിട്ടു അങ്ങനെ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ മേലധികാരി അറിയുമ്പോൾ ശിക്ഷിക്കണം.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): അങ്ങനെ വരുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുമോ ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): സാധിക്കും. പിന്നെവിലകൂടിയഔഷധങ്ങൾസാധാരണരോഗികൾക്കു കിട്ടുന്നില്ലന്നാണ് ജനാഭിപ്രായം. പ്രത്യേകം ഡാക്ടർമാർക്കു സംഭാവന ചെയ്യുന്നവർക്കായിരിക്കുമത്രേ നല്ല മരുന്നു കൊടുക്കുന്നത്. മററുള്ളവർക്കു പച്ചവെള്ളമാണ് ആശുപത്രിയിൽ നിന്നുകിട്ടുന്നതെന്നാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ സംസാരം. അതു കൊണ്ട് അവർ മററു വൈദ്യന്മാരെ സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. അതിനെപ്പററി ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. മനുഷ്യർക്കു ജീവനാണെല്ലോ മററുള്ളവയേക്കാൾ പ്രധാനം. അതിൻെറ രക്ഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യുന്ന വ്യയം അസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ആണെങ്കിൽ അതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണ്. വിലകൂടിയ മരുന്നുകൾ എല്ലാം ഡാക്ടർമാരുടെ വീട്ടുകളിൽ ആയിരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല; സാധുക്കൾക്കും കിട്ടണം. പിന്നെ വേറെ ഒന്നു പറയാനുണ്ട്. ചില ആശുപത്രികളിൽ രണ്ടു ഡാക്ടർമാരുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. ചിലതിൽ ഒരു ഡാക്ടരേ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയുള്ളു. ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനു പടിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. ചിലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അങ്ങനെ പടി അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കയില്ല. അതിൻെറ തോതെന്താണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ആശുപത്രികളിലെ രോഗികളുടെ ഹാജരിൻെറ ആധിക്യം അനുസരിച്ചായിരുന്നാൽ തരക്കേടില്ല. അതു ന്യായമായ തോതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ തോതില്ല. ഉദാഹരണമായിട്ടു കോതമംഗലം ആശുപത്രി തന്നെ എടുക്കാം. അവിടേ രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടപോലെ പടിയനുവദിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഒരു ഡാക്ടരേ അവിടെയുള്ളു. ൩൦൦ രോഗികളോളം അവിടെ പ്രതിദിനം

മരുന്നു വാങ്ങിക്കാൻ വരാറുണ്ട്. ഇതിനെക്കാൾ രോഗികൾ കുറവുള്ള ചില ആസ്പത്രികളിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഡാക്ടർമാരെയും രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കാൻ പടിയും അനുവദിച്ചു നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പ് ആവശ്യമനുസരിച്ചല്ല മാമൂലനുസരിച്ചാണ്. പണ്ടൊരിക്കൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയ സമ്പ്രദായം ഇപ്പോഴും വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. രോഗികൾ കൂടുതൽ ഉള്ള ആശുപത്രികളിൽ വേണം കൂടുതലായി പണം ചിലവു ചെയ്യാൻ. ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ പലയിടത്തും ജനനിബിഡമായ പ്രദേശത്തുതന്നെ ആശുപത്രികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കാനുണ്ടു. അതുപോലെ ഒരു സ്ഥലമാണ് ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന താലൂക്കിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാനസ്ഥലമായ പിറവം. അവിടെയും ഒരു ആശുപത്രി സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

PRESIDENT: Piravam ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അതേ, പിറവം. അവിടെ ആളുകൾ വളരെ അധികം താമസിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അടുത്തെങ്ങും ആസ്പത്രിയുമില്ല. അവിടെ ആസ്പത്രി അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്.

പിന്നെ എനിക്കൊന്നു പറയാനുള്ളതു് ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനവിഷയത്തിൽ മററു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ ഉള്ളതുപോലെ പലകുഴപ്പങ്ങളും ഇതിലും നടന്നുവരുന്നു എന്നാണ്. അത് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പുത്തൻ ഡർബാർ ഫിസിഷ്യൻ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള ദുർന്നയങ്ങൾ മേലിലെങ്കിലും അനുഷ്ഠിക്കയില്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻവിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. കഴിഞ്ഞ സംഗതികൾ നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വളരെ അക്രമങ്ങൾ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നടന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. സർവ്വീസും യോഗ്യതയും കുറഞ്ഞ പലരേയും യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവരുടെമേൽ കൊണ്ടുചെന്നു പ്രതിഷ്ഠിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. മുമ്പു ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതിനു പരിക്ഷായോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ ഇല്ലാതിരുന്ന പല സമുദായങ്ങളിലും ഇപ്പോൾ യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവരെയാണ് ഇനി നിയമിക്കേണ്ടത്. ഇത്രമാത്രമേ എനിക്കിപ്പോൾ പറവാനുള്ളു.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to support the motion. I was very happy to hear from the Darbar Physician that she intends giving her best attention to the inspection of hospitals. This has been one of the greatest defects lately. *De mortuis nil nisi bonum.* Private practice has also been lately too much on the increase. Medical officers should be made to attend the hospitals at regular hours, from 7-30 to 11 A. M. If all the medical officers in the Department are made to attend to their business in their hospitals at regular

[Mrs. M. Poonen Lukkose.]

hours instead of sneaking away to attend to private patients, I think it will be a great boon to the public. Punctual attendance is a very great thing. I know, in the Women and Children's Hospital here, every subordinate, from the Deputy Surgeon to the lowest subordinate, attends at the correct time. Everything is there spick and span. That is the sort of attendance that we want in hospitals. I was very sorry to read in one of the local newspapers a very bad report about the Quilon Hospital. I hope the attention of the Darbar Physician has been drawn to this matter. It is a very great pity that an important hospital so close by should earn such a bad name.

Then I have another point to bring to the notice of the House and of the Darbar Physician, *viz.*, that a man is still put in charge of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital in Quilon.

PRESIDENT: Not in charge, I believe.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I mean to say, as an assistant there. This is a very great pity. I am sure that a lady doctor can be found who can take the place of the man there. The women, I need not tell you, Sir, have a very great sentiment in the matter. I appeal to the Darbar Physician as a woman to respect the sentiments of her sisters in this matter and to remove immediately the male doctor from there and to substitute a lady doctor instead.

I have also a word in support of what Mr. Kunjitomman said about medicines. They run out very very soon. It is more or less an eye-wash that is given at the latter end of the year.

PRESIDENT: Nobody will drink an eye-wash. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I mean figuratively. Colouring and making it look like a medicine is an eye-wash. Now, our gracious Sovereign has provided all these hospitals with an efficient staff of officers. All that Travancore wants is the best result from what our Sovereign has given us. That is all I have to say in the matter.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in Charge*): Sir, the chief point raised in this motion seems to be that medical people are not sufficiently sympathetic when a man comes as a patient. I do not think that any medical man or woman who is working in a hospital with any sense of duty would demand any fees from patients who are unable to pay. As regards patients who are treated in hospitals, the rule is that no fees should be demanded. The Medical Department unfortunately has had a bad reputation in this respect, just as, I suppose, the Police Department for certain other defects; and perhaps at some time or other, it was deserved. There are black sheep in every department, but I am sorry to hear that a generalisation has been made. If Mr. Kunjitomman can give specific instances, or when such instances occur if he will inform the authorities, the question can be considered. But on a general statement like this, I am afraid, not much can be done.

About medicines, it is only when special medicines are required which are not in the Hospital that patients are asked to buy from

outside; and that does happen sometimes. If sufficient money is spent on medicines, I do not think there ought to be that complaint regarding hospitals.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether glycerine is a special medicine?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): It is a special medicine in this respect that it is included in the medicines to be got under special indent. Though it is used frequently in the hospitals, it does not come under the ordinary drugs and it is rather expensive also.

Then again Mr. Kunjitomman said that only the well-to-do are given good medicines and others are not. Well, Sir, I do not understand this statement. This was also pointed out to me when I first joined the service here. I used to get letters daily in the hospital from friends of mine and friends of my father, from people who ought know better, asking me to admit the patient and see that നല്ല മരുന്ന് (good medicine) is given. I do not know what this *good* medicine is, because there is only one treatment. People think that, by bringing letters of recommendation, they would get better medicine. During these eight years I have not been able to discover what this better medicine means. But I do feel that there is still that impression among the poor people who do not come to hospitals unless they have recommendations and believe that, unless some special interest is taken by the medical officer, they will not get good medicines. This belief can be obliterated only in course of time by sympathetic treatment on the part of medical officers.

Then, Mr. Hoogewerf brought forward the case that medical officers instead of attending to their hospital duty go off to see private patients. Well, that is also part of the work of medical officers. The general understanding is that the work in the hospital should not suffer except in cases of emergency. Medical officers are not allowed to make private practice their first concern. There is a very distinct understanding on that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That is all I meant.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in Charge*): But there are instances of urgent private cases outside where the medical officer's presence would be needed; and in such cases, he could not possibly be present in the hospital at the same time. But these are exceptional cases.

With regard to the Victoria Hospital, Quilon, I am not aware, Sir, whether the man is still there. When women are available, if a man is working there, I am sure, the Government will appoint a woman instead.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Hear, hear.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഡാക്ടർമാർ സാധുക്കളോട് അർത്ഥാഗ്രഹത്താൽ കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സംഗതി അറിവുകിട്ടുമ്പോൾ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാമെന്നു

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

ഡർബാർ ഫിസിഷ്യൻ പറഞ്ഞതിൽ വളരെ ആശ്വാസമുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ മേൽ ജാഗ്രതയോടുകൂടി ഇരുന്നാൽ അഴിമതികളെ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും ഹർജികൾ വന്നാൽ അതിനെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ശിക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കയും സ്ഥലം മാറേണ്ടവരെ സ്ഥലം മാററുകയും ചെയ്യണം. രോഗാതുരന്മാർക്കു പരാതി പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നത് അവരുടെ സൌഖ്യത്തിനു ഹാനികരമായേക്കുമെന്നു അവർ ഭയപ്പെടും. രോഗികളെ വീടുകളിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയി കാണിക്കുന്നതിനു ഡാക്ടർക്കു മൈലിന് എന്തു ഫീസു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു നാട്ടുഭാഷയിൽ വിവരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ബോർഡ് ആസ്പത്രികളിൽ വയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് ഒരുവിധനഷ്ടവും വരാനില്ല. അതു കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ എല്ലാ ആശുപത്രികളിലും വയ്ക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. സാധുജനങ്ങൾ ഡാക്ടരുടെ മൈലേജിനെപ്പററി തർക്കിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഡാക്ടർമാർക്കു ഏറക്കുറെ നീരസമുണ്ടാകും. അവരുടെ കൈയിലാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ജീവൻ. അവരെക്കൂടാതെ ആർക്കും നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഞാൻതന്നെ ഇതു പറഞ്ഞത് ആപൽക്കരമല്ലേ എന്നു ഭയപ്പെടണം. എങ്കിലും സാധുക്കളായ വളരെ ആളുകളുടെ ഗുണത്തിനായി എനിക്കിവിടെ തുറന്നു പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷ ഇതെല്ലാം പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തോടെ ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻവലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 294.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. N. KUMARAN:

294. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·40 lakhs under Demand XV by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now place Demand XV—Medical Department—for Rs. 5·40 lakhs before the House for its vote. I take it that the House sanctions the demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVI.—CHEMICAL EXAMINER, AYURVEDA AND SANITATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I beg to move Demand XVI for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·42 lakhs under Chemical Examiner, Ayurveda and Sanitation.

Motions 295 to 297.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

295. To omit the allotment of Rs. 440 for a temporary Vaidya-Pandit.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

296. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,860 for stipends by Rs. 860.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

297. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for purchase of raw materials for preparation of medicines for the hospital.

Motion 298.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I move the following:—

298. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,328 for Ayurveda Pharmacy by Rs. 4,000.

This motion has been brought for this reason. From the *Budget*, page 126, I find that the budget estimate for 1100 for Ayurveda Pharmacy is Rs. 8,328. The accounts for 1098 show that the amount actually spent was Rs. 3,316. The budget estimate for 1099 was only Rs. 2,427, and the revised estimate for 1099 is only Rs. 2,300. It is therefore difficult to see why such a large amount should have been allotted for the Ayurveda Pharmacy in 1100. Now, turning to page 128, we find that, out of this Rs. 8,000 and odd, Rs. 6,000 is for purchase of raw materials for preparation of medicines for the hospital. We find again a new column for it. The accounts of 1098 show an amount of Rs. 1,127, the budget estimate for 1099 was Rs. 1,466, the revised estimate for 1099 is Rs. 1,350 and the budget estimate of 1100 has swelled to Rs. 6,000. I therefore move that no more than the average expenditure for the previous years be spent on account of the Ayurveda Pharmacy which, as we know, has been the subject of much adverse criticism in this House and outside. I therefore move for the reduction.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In previous years there was an allotment under the head of advances for the purpose of purchasing raw materials for the preparation of medicines for the pharmacy. That money was very much more than what we have provided here. We have deleted that provision. There is no provision at all now under the head of advances for the purchase of raw materials for the preparation of medicines.

PRESIDENT: That was for sale in the pharmacy as well as for use in the dispensary.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes. Now this year we have provided Rs. 6,000 under the service head so that the whole expenditure may come under proper audit, eliminating the provision under advance. Again a provision is made for Rs. 8,000 under the receipts head as revenue and for supplying the hospital

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

Rs. 7,000 is provided under expenditure for the hospital. It is purely a matter of account adjustment. Rs. 6,000 is for the purchase of raw materials for preparation of medicines. More than Rs. 6,000 was formerly provided under the advance head. We require medicine for the hospital, and for preparing that, we have to purchase raw materials and manufacture the medicines and the manufactured medicine is given at certain prices to the hospital and receipts are obtained *per contra* as credit to Rs. 8,000 on the receipts side. That is the necessity for that provision.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In view of that explanation, I do not press it.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 299 to 307.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

299. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,538 for Ayurveda Department by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

300. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,535 for Ayurveda Department by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

301. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,788 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

302. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,500.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

303. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,095 for Vaccine Depôt by Rs. 100.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

304. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 85,450 for Sanitation and Vaccination by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

305. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 85,450 for Sanitation and Vaccination by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

306. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 44,300 for grants for medical purposes by Rs. 100.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): My motion has already been discussed and so I do not move.

307. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1·42 lakhs under Demand XVI by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now place Demand XVI—Chemical Examiner, Ayurveda and Sanitation—for Rs. 1·42 lakhs before the House for its vote. I take it that the House sanctions it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVII.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2·74 lakhs for Stationery and Printing.

Motions 308 to 320.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

308. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,84,000 for stationery for public departments by Rs. 20,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

309. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for carriage of stationery, packing charges, etc. by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

310. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for carriage of stationery, packing charges, etc., by Rs. 300.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

311. To reduce the allotment of Rs 1,79,500 for stationery by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

312. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for temporary piecework establishment by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

313. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for overtime allowances by Rs. 500.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

314. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for purchase of plant by Rs. 4,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

315. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for Anchal charges by Rs. 2,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

316. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 625 for office expenses by Rs. 300.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

317. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for piece-work establishment.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

318. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 94,540 for Printing by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

319. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 94,540 for Printing by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

320. To reduce the total allotment of Rs 2·74 lakhs under Demand XVII by Rs. 100.

(To point out the desirability of using good paper for Government publications.)

Motion 321.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

321. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2·74 lakhs under Demand XVII by Rs. 100.

In 1097, at the time of budget it was brought to the notice of the Government that there was too much wastage in the Printing Department. The total receipts from the Press in 1098 amounted to Rs. 21,984 while the expenditure on the Press in the same year was Rs. 1,05,855. Elsewhere in India the attempt of the Government is to run the Press as a commercial concern. A committee was appointed by the Travancore Government to enquire into the working of the Government Press and the Central Prison Press, and that committee submitted its report

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

to the Government before the Budget Session in 1098. The committee had before the submission of the final report sent in an interim report on the *Gazette*, on which orders were passed resulting in an anticipated saving of Rs. 2,915 in piece-work wages and Rs. 7,767 in paper per annum. But the provision for printing made in the budget under discussion does not show any decrease in expenditure. If the Government would pass their final orders on the report of the committee, a decent sum could be conveniently reduced from the provision allotted. The Press Committee had recommended the reduction of hands and other measures for the economical working of the Government Press. The one charge made against the management of the Government Press during the budget discussion in 1099 was that an unduly large amount of money is spent for the purchase of type and plant. In 1098, plant to the value of Rs. 9,746 was purchased. In 1099, Rs. 13,000 was allotted for the purpose. This amount is not at all necessary for the purpose. The machines in the Press are too many for the Press. All machines are not worked and there is not sufficient work for all the hands employed. The work in the foundry is the most unsatisfactory. The average daily output made by a caster was found to be 9 lbs. as against the expected output of 30 lbs. This is due to want of sufficient work. I do not understand the meaning of purchasing type when the employees in the foundry are rotting without any work. A sum of Rs. 1,200 is provided for overtime work this year. There are too many employees in the Press and even these temporary hands are under training. If the piece-workers who are employed before 1090 are to be made permanent as recommended by the committee, the work in the Government Press is very light for them. As Government could, by disposing of the Press Committee's Report and overhauling the Government Press, effect a large saving in expenditure, delay in doing so is simply leading to waste of public money. It is to emphasise this fact that I have moved this motion.

I wish to make a few observations with regard to stationery. I am of opinion that Government will have to devise some measures to curtail the use of stationery. There is nobody in the Stationery Department to utilise the necessary kind of paper. Government were undergoing a loss of Rs. 7,000 and odd in the matter of Gazette printing because suitable paper was not issued and paper of bigger size had to be cut to smaller size. There is no standardisation of forms. If an officer with the help of departmental heads carefully standardised the forms now used by various departments, a large saving could be effected in the expenditure of stationery. The work of standardisation hitherto undertaken is not of a substantial character and the importance of the work has not been fully realised. While I was a member of the Press Committee, I found that a reduction of nine forms used in the Judicial Department had been estimated to bring a saving of Rs. 12,400 a year. There is no rule with regard to the quality of paper to be used in the printing of certain forms. Different kinds of paper are used in

the same year to print the same form. The size of form, uniformity in the printing thereof and the number of forms ought to be fixed and controlled very carefully. Orders for forms are given without any reference to previous indents that have not been complied with. I found in the Central Prison Press many old Anchal forms unfit for use. Nevertheless, there were fresh orders for new forms. This is due to the absence of correct stock form ledger in the indenting offices. A really competent hand ought to be deputed for the work of standardisation. If the Anchal Department was allowed to get its own stationery and to use cheaper paper, it could be run on a commercial basis. The cost of stationery supplied to the Anchal Department from the Stationery stores is, according to the budget, Rs. 20,000 and the cost of printing comes to Rs. 14,000. I think, if the Anchal Department were left to itself in the matter of stationery and printing, that department would not have to sustain a perpetual deficit.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar. Sir, Mr. Madhava Variar's opinion that there is considerable wastage in the matter of stationery and paper in various departments, I am quite sure, is correct. That is one way in which the motion may be supported. There is yet another way in which the motion may be supported. Where there is the necessity, the Government are not spending. For example, we may take the case of a member of this Council who is doing honorary work, not only as a member of this Council, but is also doing work on various committees, for instance, the Vernacular Text Book Committee, the Oriental Manuscripts Publication Committee and various select committees and, in that manner, serving on a number of official committees. When he makes a representation that some stationery may be placed at his disposal to prepare lists of books and to do kindred work, the Government, not even reading the whole of his letter, tell him that no paper will be supplied to members of the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT: They are supplied paper now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Except for their use in the Hall. I am qualifying it.

PRESIDENT: You did not say that before.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The full stop was not reached. (*Laughter.*)

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Paper is provided also at meetings of the Select Committees. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But for all this work, the members stand in need of stationery and paper. If the Government are not prepared to give the members of this Council the necessary assistance in the matter of preparing their business in these sub-committees, select committees and other official committees, I would submit that we are left to deny the supply of paper to the various officers of the Government. The only advantage that the members of the Council have, especially the resident members in Trivandrum, is the daily allowance

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

of Rs. 5. The Government officers who go about also have the same thing. Thus, why should they alone be supplied with paper? In view of this, I am very glad to support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar. I do not know why the Press Committee's Report has not yet been taken up and final orders passed on it by Government. There is the general complaint that the suggestions of the Press Committee have been put into effect and the pay of the employees considerably reduced.

PRESIDENT: Have orders been passed by Government?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes.

PRESIDENT. Have the Press people received orders?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The Superintendent has put the suggestions of the committee into effect.

PRESIDENT: I do not think he has put them into effect. Are you sure of it?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is what the employees in the Press say. They say that those earning about Rs. 30 before are now getting only about Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a month.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter which you could have verified easily by asking the Superintendent or the authorities concerned.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know from Mr. M. N. Pillai whether it is not in the Gazette section in the Government Press that orders have been passed by Government?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I think that, only in the Gazette section, orders have been passed. I would, in the interest of the employees, ask the Government to take up the report early and pass final orders as soon as possible.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*: Sir, most of the suggestions mentioned by Mr. Madhava Variar are contained in the Press Committee's Report. I concede there has been some delay in passing final orders upon it by Government. The reason was that we wanted to refer the suggestions of the Press Committee to an expert.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There was already an expert in the committee.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter being an important one, it had to be referred to the best expert available.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the Chief Secretary whether he has referred it to the best expert?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. It was referred to the Examiner of Accounts of the Government Presses in India.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether an expert was not got down for the purpose?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, he was.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Was he an expert officer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are the reports made by the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries sent to outside experts for opinion?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They are not generally sent.

PRESIDENT: Not the ordinary reports.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is not the head of the Government Press a technical man?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Then why should there be a distinction made?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was to examine the working of the Press presided over by a technical man that the committee was appointed. The matter being a highly technical one, Government thought that it would be advisable to refer the report to the best expert available.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether an expert was not got down on a pay of Rs. 600?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is not the Press working at a very great loss just now?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that unless costing accounts are prepared.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the linotype machine is doing no work?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Press Committee has condemned the working of that machine.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is its price?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): About ten to twelve thousand rupees.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know the number of copies printed with that machine?

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe it is in the Administration Report.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the Government have referred the matter to the expert?

PRESIDENT: The expert's opinion has already been received.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Have the Government incurred any additional expenditure by way of referring the report of the Press Committee to an outside expert?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Absolutely nothing. The matter will be taken up and orders passed on the committee's report soon. If it is found possible to reduce the expenditure on the Press, it will also be done.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Press Committee's Report be placed on the table?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pettanamtitta*): I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum of Rs. 2·74 lakhs be granted under Demand XVII—Stationery and Printing. I take it that the House sanctions the Demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVIII—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·48 lakh under Demand XVIII—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Motion 322.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

322. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for purchase of animals by Rs. 4,500.*

Sir, my object in making the motion is to point out the necessity for reducing this amount.

PRESIDENT: Reducing which amount?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The amount in the budget.

PRESIDENT: It is not a reduction that you propose, but it amounts almost to a total extinction of this item.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I may be permitted to point out that, in the previous years, the amount

did not exceed Rs. 600. For example in 1098 the amount was Rs. 118. In 1099 it was estimated to spend only Rs. 600. Over and above this fact that in previous years the amount was small as compared with the provision now made, I beg to point out that there is no necessity for purchasing animals from outside. Travancore is rich in its fauna and flora and the animals that are found in the Public Gardens are generally found in the forests of Travancore.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Lion?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Except the orang-outang and the lion.

PRESIDENT: Zebra and hippopotamus?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I understand that the animals are purchased from the Malay States throughout the world as the Malay States appear to be the supplying ground of these animals. My information is that our animals are purchased from dealers in Germany, Australia and other places and naturally the value we have to pay will be considerably high. The establishment is now controlled by a Director and there appears to be a Superintendent to supervise the work of the Public Gardens and the Museum. The controlling authorities are not permanent, and though it is nearly three years since the present arrangement was made, we find that there is still no permanent Superintendent or a permanent Director to supervise the work.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether it is obligatory that the controlling agency should be permanently there?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I understand that the Superintendent is living in the Public Gardens. It is necessary that he should live there in the interest of the work that he has to perform.

PRESIDENT: Is he not in the permanent service of the Government?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are the visitors at liberty to see him also if they want? (*Laughter.*)

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Certainly. It is necessary that he should live there in the better interest and better management of the Public Gardens. It would be better to invest the controlling authority in a committee than in a Director.

PRESIDENT: How does that arise on this motion?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): My proposal is that the recommendation for the purchase of animals, etc., should come from a committee instead of from the Director who takes an occasional interest in the matter.

PRESIDENT: Occasional interest?

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): In the early days, for instance in the days of Sir T. Madhava Rao, there was a committee composed of some high European officers.

PRESIDENT: That is a policy which you can discuss under the general cut.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I am discussing the policy underlying this particular question.

PRESIDENT: I think it hardly arises. You have got to show that there is no necessity to purchase these animals. That is the only thing you can now say.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Incidentally I may point out, Sir, that, if the recommendation had come from a committee rather than from a solitary individual, it would have carried more weight. It was the case when it was managed by a committee composed of the Dewan, the British Resident and other distinguished personages.

PRESIDENT: They are not experts.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Experts may be added to the committee and of course those who take interest in the Public Gardens will naturally take interest in the Museum also. It is better that the administration is vested in a committee than in the Director. The recommendation coming from a solitary individual who cannot be expected to know the condition of the forests in Travancore is not entitled to much weight. It is better if the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Industries and some other heads of similar departments be brought on to the committee so that they may consider whether animals should not be obtained from the Travancore forests instead of purchasing them at a high price from outside. With these words, I move the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to support Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's motion. The chief reason is this. The occasional assistance of a committee to guide the deliberations regarding the Museum and Public Gardens would be quite welcome.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that question does not arise.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am referring to it incidentally.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai said that he was not prepared to attach great weight to these recommendations, because they come from a single individual.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am leading from this point to another point. Government do not get a recommendation except from the Director.

PRESIDENT: The Director consults the Superintendent, I suppose.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Recommendations may emanate from the lowest peons and can go up. Ultimately we are concerned only with the recommendation from the Museum Director because he is the responsible man. Now in a matter like this it is better that a safeguard of proposals is invested in a body of persons who take interest in natural history. Then I think it will be more valuable. As it is, the Director, according to my friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, is necessarily obliged to keep in touch with the animals around him and probably gets bewildered and distracted by the strange noise and unaccountable behaviour on their part. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: It is the Superintendent who lives in the Gardens and is being distracted and not the Director.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If the Superintendent is being distracted, he might probably be influenced considerably by what he sees around him. Then in his estimate with respect to the animals, I think, he might be erring one way or the other. It is better that we get a more reliable assurance to go upon so that the recommendations may be acted upon. As it is, if Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai is particular to press the motion, I will certainly back him.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's chief ground was that all that was sanctioned was not spent in the purchase of proper animals. But I cannot agree with him, when he said that, because the flora and fauna of Travancore are rich, therefore all the animals should be found in Travancore. Sir, Travancore animals do not require to be purchased and kept in the Museum, because such animals—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Does Mr. Velu Pillai think that these animals would come of their own accord? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): There are some animals who go to the Museum and Public Gardens of their own accord. (*Laughter.*) I am only referring to those animals which require compulsion and coercive process for being preserved in the Museum. The Museum and Public Gardens are maintained not merely to preserve those animals, reptiles, and birds that are available in large numbers here, but to show rare animals to people for educational purposes. If that is so, I shall certainly be not justified in supporting Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's suggestion that, because forests in Travancore are rich and because there are animals, no purchase need be made from outside. The Museum and Public Gardens is one of those institutions which trade upon an ancient name and ancient prestige, because for a number of years it has been in existence and tributes were paid by great men and women for the excellent way in which the institution was managed. There is a similar institution just near the Museum—the Observatory—which also

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

trades on its ancient past. There were rare animals such as the rhinoceros, giraffe, etc., which used to be a matter of wonder. Although that good old rhinoceros died (*laughter*) several years ago, it has not been replaced. We do not want to see elephants in the gardens as we see them everyday. We do not want to see horses either.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Does Mr. Velu Pillai know that they are going to purchase a rhinoceros with the allotment provided?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not know what they are going to do. I am complaining as to what they have not done. If Government want to maintain a museum and gardens useful for educational purposes, they ought not to stint money. There is one aspect which I cannot but place before the House. Government are not sufficiently alive to the necessity of improving the Museum and Public Gardens, as great men and women who come to Travancore from outside and visit the museum give good certificates because Travancore animals and plants are new to them and they are biologically, botanically interesting. Just the reverse is the case with the Travancorean. He does not want to see a cocoanut palm growing as he sees many in his own garden. He sees cows and hens in his own house. He wants to see plants and animals from other places. It is better to spend enough to secure adequate advantage than to spend a small sum and get no advantage at all.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I am opposed to the motion as far as the animal kingdom is concerned. I think our zoological garden is one of the very best in India and it is a very great pity if we abolish it. So that portion of the motion I oppose. With regard to the appointment of a committee instead of a Director being in charge, I must say that once it was the Chief Secretary, and at some other period a professor, and now it is another professor who is in charge of the institution. I think a committee composed of members who have some idea of plants and animals like Mr. Robinson, who is a splendid hand in gardening, will do much better than school-masters.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I move that the question be now put.

The closure motion was carried.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The points raised by Messrs. Ramakrishna Pillai and Narayana Pillai have, I think, been satisfactorily answered by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai. The educational and scientific value of an institution like the Museum and Public Gardens depends upon the large assortment of animals that can be placed there from all climes. In fact we had a collection of animals such as rhinoceros, zebra, etc. It is with a view to purchase such animals that Mr. Pryde has suggested this provision.

In fact he wanted Rs. 10,000 but Government reduced it to Rs. 5,000. We have not been purchasing any animals for the zoo from outside for the past several years. So this provision is very necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Do not some people entertain particular aversion to particular animals?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They need not go to the zoo.

PRESIDENT: I suppose these animals are liked by all.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): This is my question. The officer in charge who makes recommendations may have aversion to particular animals. For example, some famous generals do not want to see cats. If the Director has some such aversion towards such animals, why should we not have other people also to consider the recommendation?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. Pryde is a naturalist and a botanist. He may not have any aversion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): If that is so and if science prevails over inclinations I do not want to ask the question.

PRESIDENT: That is the presumption

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 323 to 327.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

323. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for purchase of animals by Rs. 3,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

324. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,000 for upkeep of other animals by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

325. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,000 for upkeep of other animals by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

326. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 850 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 350.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

327. To omit the allotment of Rs. 100 for contingencies.

Motion 328.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

328. To omit the allotment of Rs. 100 for contingencies under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Protector of Depressed Classes.

[Mr. N. Kumaran].

My object in moving this motion is to elicit some more facts from Government as to the nature of the work done by the Protector of the Depressed Classes.

PRESIDENT: He was appointed only the other day, and he has not yet begun his regular work.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know the nature of the work he is expected to do?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): To give facilities to the depressed classes and to safeguard their interests. The G. O. on the subject defining his duties has been placed in the Press Room and published in the *Gazette*.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum of Rs. ·48 lakh be granted under Demand XVIII—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments. I take it that the House sanctions the demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIX.—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·62 lakh under Demand XIX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Motions 329 and 330.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

329. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600 for binding charges by Rs. 300.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI;

330. To reduce the allotment of Rs 10,580 for Public Library by Rs. 100.

Motion 331.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

331. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,580 for Public Library by Rs. 100.

Sir, the Public Library is certainly a very useful institution and Government have been spending a lot of money for its maintenance. In 1098, Rs. 11,830 seems to have been spent on this account. There was also a receipt of Rs. 3,980 in the same year, the net expenditure for 1098 being Rs. 7,890. Therefore it is clear that about two-thirds of the expenditure is met from the general revenues. Now, you will find that in the arrangement provided in the Library for the convenience of the public there are certain defects. There is a members' room where

all the latest papers, periodicals and books are arranged. There is another reading room where journals which are too old and some dailies two or three days late and some local papers are placed.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Is the member aware that some dailies are placed in the general reading room on the very same day they are received?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): One or two. The *Hindu* seems to be there. But on one occasion I found that the *Hindu* was not in the general reading room, but in the members' room. So I had absolutely no chance of reading it because it was placed in the members' room where strangers are not admitted. I believe it is a dog-in-the-manger policy if the Government reserve all these papers in one room. For the subscription which the members are paying they may have the convenience of a well-furnished and snug room. But it is not necessary that all these papers and books should be placed in this room and that the public should not be permitted to go to that room.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are absolutely no books in that room.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): What I meant was that there are periodicals and papers. If a member wants a paper or a periodical it may be taken to him in the members' room and if it is so done a visitor like myself who comes to Trivandrum now and then can go and read the latest periodicals. I submit that the general tax-payer is also contributing towards the maintenance of this institution. It is with a view to remove all these defects that I have brought this motion.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The only grievance referred to by my friend Mr. Kumaran relates to the fact that most of the latest periodicals and newspapers are being kept in the members' room and that only one or two newspapers are placed in the—

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): And magazines.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): —in the general readers' room as soon as they are received. I am submitting that the admission to the reading room is absolutely free and that the average number of readers that attend the reading room for a month goes up to 2,500.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not dispute that point.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That leads up to something to which I am coming. There are 2,500 readers in the general reading room. It becomes necessary therefore to make some special arrangements as regards periodicals and newspapers that have to be placed in the members' room for the use of the members who pay a considerably large sum by way of subscription.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are they not entitled, for the subscription they pay, to take a number of books which the readers are not entitled to?

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They are permitted to take a large number of books. That is one of their privileges. Another privilege the members are having is that they can have admission to the members' room to read the latest newspapers and periodicals. So far as the general public are concerned, their main privilege is to go to the readers' room and read the newspapers and periodicals placed there.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know what the practice elsewhere is?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Practice where?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): In Madras and other places.

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have seen the practice in Madras and other places. There are certain free reading rooms where such a privilege is conferred upon all. But there are also reading rooms where it is not conferred.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Should not the privilege be conferred on the ordinary public?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The newspapers and journals are being transferred to the reading room.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): When they become stale?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The old issues are removed to the reading room.

PRESIDENT: Your difficulty can be removed only by subscribing for more copies of all papers.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not want that.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The privileges of members cannot be curtailed.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Why not Mr. Kumaran become a member?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not propose to answer him. What is the harm in a member of the general public going to the place? A member can also go to the same place and make use of the newspapers and magazines.

PRESIDENT: They may not be available for the member if the public are allowed to make use of them. The total number of the general public who make use of them is very large. What is the total number of members in Trivandrum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): One hundred and seventy-six.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are there not non-resident members?

PRESIDENT: That figure almost wholly represents the residents in Trivandrum.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know how many members there are who are not resident in Trivandrum, but who are still members?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are a few. I have not got the exact number now.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Arts College*): Is Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar aware that there is no room in the present Library building which can be made use of as a common room for members as well as others?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Except the general reading room, I do not think there is any other room which may be used as a common room.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Does he mean to say that there is no other room available?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No other room is available.

If only Mr. Kumaran had written to the Secretary or the clerk there, he would have got any newspaper he wanted.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not want any special privilege because I am Mr. Kumaran.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In case the members are to have the privilege of reading the latest newspapers and the general public should also have the same, membership will have to be abolished altogether.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is it absolutely necessary for the successful working of the institution that there should be members and members' room and that sort of thing?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is a large question and I cannot answer it off-hand.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I quite agree with the Government member in what he has said. I do not think it is desirable that every Tom, Dick and Harry should rub shoulders with the respectable subscribers who go to the Public Library. Mr. Kumaran is of course an exception. Some distinction should be made between the subscribers and the general public. If dailies can be provided for the general reading room also, so much the better.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I wish to make a suggestion to Mr. Kumaran, and in order to do so I am speaking. Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar's position is that a gentleman like Mr. Kumaran may, if he cared, get the privilege of reading even in the members' room. Mr. Kumaran speaks not for himself but for those

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

voiceless people who care to go to the Library and read a newspaper. So, the question has not been sufficiently answered. As a member of the Library Committee, I have some experience of the working of the Public Library. As there is such a large number of members, even the members sometimes find it inconvenient to get the latest newspapers, because three or four have to read the same newspaper at the same time. But, I think Mr. Kumaran's desire to throw open the reading room can be satisfied by a very easy contrivance. In the case of the best-read newspapers, instead of having a single copy, why not provide two copies each? If this Council comes to the conclusion that Mr. Kumaran's request is legitimate, an additional amount may be sanctioned without difficulty and two copies of the leading papers may be purchased instead of one copy. That is a suggestion which I beg to throw out to Mr. Kumaran.

PRESIDENT: That was what I said. The difficulty can be removed only by increasing the number of copies to be purchased.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I am sorry to observe that Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar missed the point of the motion. So far as Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar's statement goes, it is correct. We have got three varieties of people using the Public Library; there are the four-anna subscriber, the eight-anna subscriber and the member.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Is there not a fourth class—the general reader?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): He has, I think, to obtain a ticket.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Some amount of money is being supplied by the general tax-payer for the purpose of the Library. It should not be exclusively devoted to the eight-anna subscriber, the four-anna subscriber or the member. That with the subscription as such the institution is not being supported is a fact. The Government have to allot some amount of money every year for maintaining the institution. If, by paying subscription, a person is allowed to have all the benefits and another person who does not pay should be entirely excluded,—

PRESIDENT: He is not excluded entirely.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): As regards the quantum of benefit, if the four-anna subscriber is to have a very large share of benefit and if a non-subscriber is to go away without any serious advantage from the library, naturally the question arises whether the system of working so far as the non-paying people are concerned may not be re-arranged.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): What is the large share of benefit that a four-anna subscriber receives?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : He is entitled to take a book. He is entitled to read newspapers and magazines.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): So far as the reading of the newspapers and magazines is concerned, he is on a level with the ordinary public.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : If it is so, it is good. But the benefit that is available to the non-paying section is all that I am concerned with. That is the point at which attention has not been rivetted by the spokesman on behalf of the Government. I am pretty jealous of the privilege of the members, because the members, among whom I include myself, pay pretty decently for the privileges they are enjoying. So far as the other question is concerned, the question is open to revision whether the casual reader may not also get more benefit in the general reading room of the Public Library. The suggestion of getting down two copies may also be considered. The question is whether the proportion of advantages as regards the paying and non-paying public is correctly fixed, in view of the share of general revenue devoted to the upkeep of the library.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I am sorry that I am not satisfied with the explanation given by Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar. It is not my intention in moving this motion that Government should in any way incur additional expenditure. I know of one or two dailies being placed in the general reading room also.

PRESIDENT: If you make it a condition that no additional expenditure should be incurred and at the same time they should be provided with dailies, the solution becomes rather difficult.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I would submit my point. If anybody goes there and asks for a magazine or a newspaper, he may be allowed to look into it.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May I point out that the librarian's work is only up to 5 P. M. and that most members go only after 5 O'Clock?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Those people who go after 5 P. M. may not get this privilege. Supposing one particular gentleman wants to refer to a particular fact in a magazine, what is the remedy? Is he not paying two-thirds for the maintenance of the library, while the members and the subscribers contribute only one-third? Is he to go without any advantage? I consider it rather hard.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I ask Mr. Kumaran if he is in favour of allowing children who are not able to pay their fees being admitted to the higher forms of vernacular schools?

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not quite follow my friend.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My question is only this. Mr. Kumaran has been saying that two-thirds of the amount has been contributed by the tax-payer and only one-third by the subscribers and the members. I am putting it that schools and colleges are maintained by the tax-payers' money. Is Mr. Kumaran in favour of allowing boys and girls being taught in Government schools on which the tax-payers' money is spent, without requiring those boys and girls to pay fees?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The question does not make any difference at all in my position.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, as I understand Mr. Kumaran, what he has been aiming at is to so extend the volume of reading material in the general reading room as to place the large number of periodicals and newspapers that are now received in the members' room there, thereby curtailing the privileges that are being enjoyed by the members in the members' room.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not want any one of their privileges to be curtailed; I only want the extension of privileges in other directions.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That involves the expenditure of additional money. If the House sanctions additional funds, that can be done. That is the only feasible solution that suggests itself to me.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Can you not arrange to distribute the papers and magazines by half and half?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If this is done, the member really does not gain any advantage by paying more. It does not appear to be a practical proposition.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 332 to 339.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

332. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,346 for Archaeology by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

333. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,815 for publication of Sanskrit Manuscripts by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

334. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,937 for publication of Malayalam Manuscripts.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

335. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,800 for Preservation of Oriental Literature by Rs. 100.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY:

336. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,408 for establishment by Rs 1,120.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

337. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,540 for travelling allowances by Rs. 2,000.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

338. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,950 for Registrar of Co operative Societies by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

339. To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,600 for Economic Development Board.

PRESIDENT: I place before the House Demand XIX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—for Rs. ·62 lakh. I take it that the House sanctions it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XX—PUBLIC WORKS.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 28·25 lakhs under Demand XX—Public Works.

Motion 340.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

340. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 500.

Motion 341.

MR N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

341. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,290 under Direction by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to refer to the necessity of reducing the expenses under establishment and also to the necessity of having a better supervision over the working of the Department. It was pointed out during the course of the general discussion that there was a good deal of complaint about the over-manning of the Department as well as about appointments generally and punishments meted out to the officers of the Department. The Chief Engineer had not the advantage of giving sufficient explanation for all the allegations then made about him. I wish to point out that the expenditure in the executive branch is out of proportion to the total grant of the department and that sufficient attention has not been paid to reduction in the percentage of the cost of the establishment as compared with the total grant. It is to make a reference to all these points that I have brought forward this motion and I hope the Chief Engineer will be able to give us his explanation on these.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I understand from Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai that he has brought this motion to invite my attention that a reduction under establishment is possible. This

[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

motion is made under direction. I do not know whether he means reduction under direction alone or under the whole establishment. He has also invited my attention to the necessity of a better supervision of the working of the executive staff. He again referred to the overmanning of the Department and the complaints made against me in the matter of appointments and punishments. Finally he said that the expenditure under establishment was out of proportion to the total grant.

Regarding the establishment in the Department, I have already given complete information during the general budget discussions in Audi 1098 and Audi 1099, and detailed information about the severe retrenchment effected in 1098 has been given in the Annual Report of the Department for 1098. In my budget speech in Audi 1098, I compared the salaries given here with those in Madras. A reference to that will show that the establishment here is indeed cheap. There is no justification at all for saying that it is out of proportion. I do not also admit that the expenditure under travelling allowance, which forms part of the establishment charge, is on a lavish scale.

PRESIDENT: You are expected to reply only to those heads to which Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has referred.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already given my reply under those heads during the budget discussion. I shall read out what I said then.

PRESIDENT: You may give a brief résumé of what you said then, if you are going to say the same thing. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's first charge is that the percentage of expenditure under establishment is too high.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The rate of charge for the establishment is only 17 per cent. I maintain that it is not high. The establishment was very recently retrenched. Several Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers were reduced; 14 Supervisors were also reduced. All this information is given in the Administration Report. We effected a saving of about Rs. 36,000 in the pay of the superior officers, and the pay of the lower officers was increased. The saving effected was absorbed in this increase. The net saving is about Rs. 3,600.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What is the present percentage?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engnicer*): It is about 17 to 18. We are keeping to the average for the past several years.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that the whole retrenchment came to only Rs. 3,600?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The saving on account of the retrenchment of the superior staff is about Rs. 36,000.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : That was distributed to the subordinate staff?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes. With respect to the matter of appointments, no specific instances have been given where I have shown communal bias. But I would like to give information on general points.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I say that nothing like communal bias was mentioned against Mr. Natesa Aiyar by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): He referred to appointments and punishments. Some member said in the general budget discussion that I was the worst offender in such matters.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai referred to the budget speeches where criticisms were made and communal bias was ascribed to him by the members.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): He had his reply during the general discussion.

PRESIDENT: He had not sufficient time to reply. I drew the attention of the House then to the fact that Government members had not been given sufficient time to reply and that they would be able to explain in detail when voting on Demands came up.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I ask whether *some* member means *a* member or has it got any other meaning?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I think it was Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai who referred to it.

PRESIDENT: Then why don't you say so?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many years it is since Mr. Natesa Aiyar took charge?

PRESIDENT: I think it is known to the House very well; it is given in the *Civil List*.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): It is two years since I took charge.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many Brahmins has he appointed in the higher grade since he took charge?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I want the definition of the term higher grade.

I will give the information in regard to appointments, if Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai wants it.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I made reference to the general discussion. During the course of that discussion complaints were made against him. What I pointed out was that I was giving him an opportunity for explaining.

PRESIDENT: That is why he wants to explain.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I may speak about the appointments, I think.

PRESIDENT ; yes; you may do so.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The number of Sub-Overseers appointed by me to act in vacancies, since I took charge of the Department, is 14. 3 of them are Brahmins, 6 Nairs, 3 Christians, and 2 Ezhavas. All the three Brahmins had previously acted as such. I did not go in search of them. The number of acting appointments made by Government in the Executive Branch on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, since I took charge, is 8, of which 2 are Brahmins, 2 Christians and 4 Nairs. The number of appointments, acting and permanent, made by the Chief Engineer in the Chief Engineer's office since I took charge is 15. Of these, 3 are Brahmins, 6 Nairs, 1 Variar, 1 Ezhava, 1 other Hindu and 3 Christians. Of these, 2 Nairs and 1 Variar have been since confirmed. The number of acting appointments made by Government in the Chief Engineer's Office on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer since I took charge is 4. Of these, 2 are Christians, 1 an Unnittan and the other a Nair.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I would like to know the grade of appointments also.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The last four appointed to act in the Chief Engineer's Office were in the grade of Rs. 40-70. Some appointments were also made by the Chief Engineer in Division vacancies. At the time of the re-organisation, new typists were sanctioned and I considered the applications received through Executive Engineers and from other sources. Out of these applicants, 6 were appointed as typists in the grade of Rs. 20-35. One of them is a Brahmin. He is a Mesopotamia-returned man and was recommended by the Soldiers' Committee or the Executive Engineers. One is an Ezhava and one belongs to the washerman community. The three others are Christians. The Ezhava and one of the Christians do not possess the qualification required by Service rules but have been exempted for two years under a special recommendation made by me to Government. Three other appointments in the grade of Rs. 35-50 were also made by me since the re-organisation and posted to the Division offices. One is a Tamilian, one is Mr. Narayanan Tampi, reverted from the Industries Department, and the third is a Nayar who was an acting hand discharged at the time of the re-organisation. I do not know whether any further information is required. There have been unjust rumours and unfounded allegations against me. As regards punishments also, I would like to say a few words. Mr. Kumara Pillai mentioned about the punishment given to Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai and he said that it was quite disproportionate and so on. I was not able to refer to these matters fully in my reply during the budget discussion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെയല്ല ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ളയെ രണ്ടു

വർഷത്തേയ്ക്കു ശിക്ഷിച്ചതിൽ യാതൊരാക്ഷേപവുമില്ല. കൂടുതൽ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കും ആക്ഷേപമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിന്റെ രക്ഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള ശിക്ഷകൾ എത്ര കൂടിയിരുന്നാലും എനിക്ക് ആക്ഷേപമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ആ സംഗതിയിൽ എല്ലാ ആളുകളേയും ഒരുപോലെ നോക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I understand it now.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): It was clearly stated in my speech.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Kumara Pillai referred to it and enquired about the punishments inflicted or intended to be inflicted on other subordinates who had misbehaved and who happened to be Brahmins. The inference drawn by Mr. Kumara Pillai was that Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai appeared to him to have been comparatively severely punished and that Brahmin subordinates were not being dealt with as they deserved. So far as I am concerned, I had nothing to do with Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai's punishment—either the initial punishment or the final punishment. The Government suspended him on the recommendation of the Account Officer, and when I took charge of the Department, he was under suspension and preparing his explanation. When his explanation was received, I looked into the records and in due course forwarded his explanation to Government with necessary remarks as to facts and departmental practice.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many charges there were about Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have got the records with me, but it will take time to detail the charges. Government considered his explanation and finally passed orders in the matter.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know for what charge he was punished?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I think the Government member will be in a better position to say that. I simply gave certain facts to clear a misapprehension. The Government considered the explanation and passed final orders. Then, about Mr. Raja gopala Aiyar. He had been recommended to be Supervisor, second grade.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether Mr. Natesa Aiyar had anything to do with the punishment of Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already explained that I forwarded his explanation with remarks. I do not know whether I explained myself clearly at the time of the budget discussion with respect to Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar. Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar had been recommended for promotion as Supervisor, second grade,

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by my predecessor at the time of the re-organisation and his promotion had been sanctioned at the time I took charge. The papers relating to the over-measurement by the Supervisor and to the over-payment thereon by Mr. C. J. Mani, Sub-Engineer, subsequently came up before me and as soon as all the explanations were received, the matter was fully considered by me and my report sent to Government in July, 1923.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to elicit some information whether Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai was suspended pending an enquiry into the case.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have finished all that I have got to say about Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*); Was there not a definite charge against Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar? Why did not the Government take steps to suspend him?

PRESIDENT: That is for me to reply.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir,—

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): My report on the matter was sent in July, 1923.

PRESIDENT: In regard to Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar, I think an explanation is due from me to the House, as it unfortunately happens that I am the Head of the Administration as well as the President of this House. What the Chief Engineer says is perfectly right. A report against Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar was received in the Secretariat in July, 1923. There was a delay in the Secretariat and the file came to the Government only about two months ago. For the last two months it has not been possible for the Government to take up that file and deal with it on account of circumstances of which the House is fully aware. There has been delay in regard to Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar's case, and the Secretariat is responsible for the delay largely. That matter is also engaging the attention of the Government.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*); What I wanted to know is this. In the case of Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar, the case is pending investigation. He is retained in the service and he is given promotion, whereas in the case of Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai, it is the reverse.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have not completed my explanation.

PRESIDENT: Mr. M. N. Pillai, please wait and hear his explanation and then put whatever question you want.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): In the case of Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar, Mr. Everard had put up a note that he deserved only a fine of one-eighth of his pay in the matter. I considered that it was very lenient and recommended to the Government that the promotion sanctioned to him should be withdrawn with retrospective effect.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether, in the case of Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar, the Chief Engineer recommended any suspension?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I did not recommend any suspension. I recommended the withdrawal of promotion as a first step and left to the Government the matter of further punishment, explaining that there was an impression that he was a relation of mine and that any punishment that I recommended might be considered inadequate.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why was he not recommended for suspension?

PRESIDENT: He has said that Mr. Everard did not suspend him, but that he considered he deserved a punishment of a fine of only one-eighth of his monthly pay.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Did not the Chief Engineer recommend his suspension?

PRESIDENT: No.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was it not after receiving the report regarding the charges against him that Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar was given promotion?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): No; it was recommended by Mr. Everard before he received the report and at the time or within a few days of my taking charge of the Department sanction was received. Then the reports came in and explanations were called for. The matter was gone into and as a result I recommended the withdrawal of the promotion as a first step.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. What we, on this side of the House, want is that Government and their officers should do their work properly in the matter of appointments. The question I wish to raise is whether all that Mr. Everard has done, all that Mr. Natesa Aiyar has done or all that the previous Engineers have done is relevant. Is it right that this personal question should be drawn into the arena of discussion? An accusation is made against a departmental head and it is as departmental heads that gentlemen on the other side of the House take their seat, not as private persons. So, the point raised is whether their personalities count in a matter like this.

PRESIDENT: It is a very difficult point to answer. As I understand it, in the matter of individual punishments dealing with individual officers, the details of the cases should not be the subject of discussion in the House. The non-official side must accept what the official side says. It is open to non-officials to say that the policy adopted by certain departmental heads in regard to appointments or in regard to punishments is wrong. I think it is certainly open to the House to say that. But when an explanation is given by the head of the department that explanation must be accepted. When questions are put about details, it

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is very awkward not to answer them. Silence in such circumstances is likely to lead to the inference that the departmental head wants to conceal facts. The same is the case with regard to the Government. The inference will be that the Government have something to conceal. That is the difficulty in which both the head of the department and the Government are placed in this matter.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): My recommendation was sanctioned by the Government with regard to the withdrawal of promotion to Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar. He had consequently to refund Rs. 300 which he had drawn already and has lost four or five places, as his juniors have since been promoted to the second grade over him. Final orders of Government on the matter are still awaited.

I think I have given a sufficient and satisfactory reply in the general discussion to the other matters mentioned by Mr. Kumara Pillai. If he wants further information, I shall give. With respect to the Section Officer in charge of the Cantonment Section, the matter related to the delay in the remittance of about Rs. 257, the amount of certain sale proceeds into the treasury. When they were realised by the officer—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ സെക്ഷൻ ആഫീസർ പണം പിരിച്ചതെപ്പോളാണ്? ആ പണം എത്രകാലം കയ്യിൽ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു? എപ്പോഴാണ് താലൂക്കിൽ ഒടുക്കിയത്?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): That is all under enquiry. Whether he kept the money, or, as alleged by him, the clerk kept the money, and how the remittance was delayed are under enquiry.

As regards punishments and communal bias, I have got to say something. I have been punishing all classes of people in the office and the executive line. I find that, in the year 1098, in the Chief Engineer's office punishments were inflicted on five persons of whom two were Christians and two Brahmins, and the other, a Tamilian, was punished twice. In 1099, I punished eleven persons of whom eight happened to be Brahmins, two happened to be Nayars and one a Christian. In the Executive staff, Supervisors were punished in 1098 ten times. Of these seven happened to be Brahmins, one happened to be a Nayar and two Christians. In 1099, punishments were inflicted on thirteen persons. Of these eleven were Brahmins, one a Nayar and the other a Vellala. I would request the members of this Council not to come to any conclusion on hearsay information.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether the order of the Government reducing the pay of Mr. M. A. Narayana Aiyar in connection with the 'Redeemer' disaster enquiry from Rs. 90 to Rs. 80 was given effect to?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Automatically, it must have been communicated to the Executive Engineer.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The *Civil List* for the year shows that he gets the same pay.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): When was the *Civil List* printed, please?

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): It has been corrected up to 1st Chingam, 1100.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The Account Officer will be able to explain that.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Another person who was punished in connection with the same disaster was Mr. Jacob Joseph. In his case, a reduction of pay has been ordered and the orders were given effect to and this is seen from the *Civil List*.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): So, you mean to say that Mr. Jacob Joseph's reversion finds a place in the *Civil List*, while Mr. Narayana Aiyar's reduction does not find a place. The order about this reduction must have been communicated to the Executive Engineer.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I only want information whether orders have not been communicated in respect of any officer.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Orders must have been immediately communicated to the Executive Engineers concerned. Mr. Narayana Aiyar will not be paid on the authority of the *Civil List* but only according to the orders communicated to the Executive Engineer.

I do not know whether any further information is required by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai or any other in the matter of punishments awarded and other matters regarding the establishment.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-8 P. M.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I wish to support the motion of Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. In supporting the motion, I have to bring to the notice of the House that the re-organisation of the Public Works Department was effected just a few weeks before Mr. Natesa Aiyar took charge of the Department. It is a well-known fact that Mr. Natesa Aiyar had a hand in the re-organisation.

PRESIDENT: What is the meaning of it?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): He was in the Maramat Department and I understand he was consulted in connection with the re-organisation of the Public Works Department. I have heard that he was deputed to make the selection of men for promotion in connection with the re-organisation.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): No, I deny it.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then, I withdraw it. With all that, soon after the re-organisation, Mr. Natesa Aiyar took charge of

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the Department. With the re-organisation, there were many complaints that most of the non-Brahmins who were employed in the Chief Engineer's office, including the Manager, Superintendent and some clerks were transferred to different places. In the place of the Manager, an Assistant Engineer was put in, and in the place of the Superintendent, a Superintendent from the Account Office was taken, and it was said then that this Superintendent's place was an interchangeable post between the Chief Engineer's Office and the Account Office. After a few months, I was told that the Superintendent sent from the Account Office did not like the place, and he went back to the Account Office. The man who was the Superintendent previously and who is a graduate applied for the post as he was the legitimate claimant for it, but had not the fortune to secure the place. And in that place, a Brahmin who had no qualification was put in. This, I think, is a very great injustice to that man. Then again, there are several other complaints about transfers of officers in the P. W. D.

PRESIDENT: Will you please specify some?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): No, I could not. There is a complaint that, after the "Redeemer" accident, non-Brahmins were posted as canal officers. Of course, this is an information which I got from outside.

PRESIDENT: What I request you to do is to specify some instances.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): All the canal officers are non-Brahmins. Is this not a fact? Can Mr. Natesa Aiyar deny this?

PRESIDENT: From Cape Comorin to Alwaye?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes, that is one charge.

PRESIDENT: I trust that members, when they make charges against officers, would satisfy themselves that there is evidence for those charges.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is open to the Chief Engineer to correct me if I am wrong.

PRESIDENT: I do not think it is proper simply to say: "I heard such and such things, therefore let the Chief Engineer answer them".

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I am subject to correction.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): When we are discussing about a cut of Rs. 100, questions of general policy may be discussed and not individual grievances of transfers, etc. If this is permitted, no departmental head can administer his department unless his appointment of A or B or his punishment of A or B is scrutinised by this House. If there is anything which affects the the policy of a department, I believe it is a matter to be discussed

in this House. But to discuss whether particular persons were transferred on proper grounds or punished on proper grounds or not is going too much into the debate on the administration.

PRESIDENT: As I have already said, the matter is a very difficult and delicate one. Mr. M. N. Pillai makes a statement that all the men in charge of the canals are non-Brahmins.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I am ready to withdraw that if I am not correct in what I say.

PRESIDENT: There is no use in saying a thing and then withdrawing it. It is unfair to the officer whom you are attacking.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai was referring to communal partiality, appointment of Nayars and other things. According to the *Civil List* which I have gone through just now, I find six Brahmins out of whom one is in the Maramat and two—

PRESIDENT: The Chief Engineer has nothing to do with the Maramat Department.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is in the *Civil List.*

PRESIDENT: It may be so.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The Chief Engineer said that the number of posts given by him to Brahmins are not many.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already read a statement of eight appointments made by the Government on my recommendation in the executive establishment. Only two out of the eight are Brahmins. I would like to hear the six names referred to by him.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The others are in the Technical School and the Maramat Department.

PRESIDENT: I may tell you that the Chief Engineer has nothing to do with the Maramat Department and the Technical school.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Why I bring this to the notice of this House is—

PRESIDENT: You cannot bring to the notice of the House a thing which is not a fact.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The total strengh of the Brahmins in the executive line of the P. W. D. is 60, Nayars 23, Christians—

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): For which I am not responsible.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not say that he is responsible. What I wish to say is that the proportion of other people is much less and that sufficient encouragement should be given to non-Brahmins at least hereafter. That is all I have to say. I do not accuse Mr. Natesa Aiyar.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, am I to reply now or later?

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

PRESIDENT : You have got a right of reply later.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : What I would insist is that hereafter at least non-Brahmins should be encouraged.

PRESIDENT ; That is a different matter. Whether he is encouraging Brahmins or not, you can infer from the figures given by him to the House.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Then again there is the case of Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai. It is a case which is much talked of in the Council and elsewhere. What I wish to point out is that it is a very hard case.

PRESIDENT : This is not the place for your saying that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Then where else?

PRESIDENT : You must go to the Government and tell them that his case is a very hard one.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I suppose I can explain and bring out the facts concerning that case as also the facts about the cases of Rajagopala Aiyar and others.

PRESIDENT: I do not think the details regarding any individual case are in place in this House. There are other places where the matter can be mentioned and remedy obtained. You can interview the Government in the matter if you like.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I support the motion. I have nothing more to say.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*) : ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പ്രതികൂലിക്കുന്നു. ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനങ്ങളിലും മററ് ഉദ്യോഗകൃത്യങ്ങളിലും മററുപല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരേയും അപേക്ഷിച്ചു ന്യായസ്ഥനനും അദ്ദേഹം ഒരുകൃത്യനിഷ്ഠയുള്ള ആളായിട്ടാണ് പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വിശ്വാസം എന്നും ആണ് എൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം. അതുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹത്തിനായി കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുക കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ പ്രതികൂലിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ എനിക്കു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനവിഷയത്തിൽ വർഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതം കാണിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിച്ചാൽ തന്നെയും അതു മററുപലരെയും അപേക്ഷിച്ചു വളരെ കുറവാണെന്നുള്ളതു നിർവിവാദമാണ്. (*Laughter.*)

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : വർഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതം കാണിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*) : ഉണ്ടെന്ന് എനിക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല. രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ

ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ, പരസ്പരസഹായവകുപ്പ് ഇവയെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ വകുപ്പിൽ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനത്തിൽ വർഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതം വളരെകുറവാണെന്ന് ആക്കും സമ്മതിച്ചേകഴിയൂ. മററ് ഉദ്യോഗകൃത്യങ്ങളെപ്പററിചിന്തിക്കാം. ഗതാഗതത്തിനു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക അധികമസൌകര്യം ഉള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നത്. അദ്ദേഹം ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഉൾഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചാരസൌകര്യം വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ പലതും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. അവിടം അടുത്തകാലംവരെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറശ്രദ്ധപതിയാതെ കിടക്കയായിരുന്നു. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള പല താലൂക്കുകളിലും റോഡുകൾ വെട്ടുന്നതിനു ബഡ്ജററിൽ കുറെസംഖ്യ ഗവർണ്മെൻറുവാദത്തോടുകൂടിയാണെങ്കിലും കഴിഞ്ഞവഷവും ചേക്കുകയും അതു കൌൺസിലിൽ അനുവദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൌൺസിലിനു സംഖ്യ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനല്ലാതെ ഏതെങ്കിലും സംഖ്യകൂട്ടുന്നതിനൊ പുത്തനായി ചേക്കുന്നതിനൊ അധികാരമില്ലല്ലോ. പ്രസ്തുതഃവചകൾക്ക സംഖ്യചേത്തിട്ടുള്ളത് അദ്ദേഹം ആവശ്യംധരിച്ചു ചെയ്തതാണ്. ഗതാഗതത്തിന് അസൌകര്യമുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ അദ്ദേഹം സഞ്ചരിക്കയും ജനങ്ങൾ പറയുന്നതിനെ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുകേൾക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. കാട്ടും മുള്ളും ചവിട്ടി ഊടുവഴികളിൽ കൂടിനടന്നു റോഡുകൾ വേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ നോക്കുന്നതിന് അദ്ദേഹം സന്നദ്ധത പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എൻെറ താലൂക്കിൽ പലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ഞാനും അദ്ദേഹത്തോടുകൂടി സഞ്ചരിച്ചു പല ഊടുവഴികളും കാണിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. വാസ്തവമിങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു വേണ്ടി വച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുക കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ലെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അദ്ദേഹം സ്വദേശിയായാലും വിദേശിയായാലും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ഗുണത്തിനായി കൃത്യബോധത്തോടെ യത്നിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം. മിസ്ററർ റാബിൻസൺ ലാൻഡുറവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ എന്നപോലെ ഇദ്ദേഹം പബ്ലിക്ക്വർക്സ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും ജനഹിതത്തെ അറിഞ്ഞുപ്രവത്തിക്കുന്നു എന്നുപറയുന്നതിൽ ഞാൻ ഒട്ടും മടിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഇനിയും കൂടുതൽ ജാഗരൂകതയോടുകൂടി ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും മററുറോഡുകൾ കുറഞ്ഞ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതാണ്. തുടങ്ങിയറോഡുകൾ തന്നെ കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗം തീക്കണം. കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പറയുന്നതിനെ മാത്രം ശരിവച്ചാൽ പോരാ. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നയാളല്ല അദ്ദേഹം (*laughter*) എന്നു ഏറെക്കുറെ എനിക്കറിയാം. ഒരു സംഗതിക്കനുവദിക്ക

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

ന്ന സംഖ്യയിൽ ചില കൺട്രാക്ടന്മാർ മാമൂൽ അനുസരിച്ച് അധികം പണവും കരസ്ഥമാക്കും. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ അദ്ദേഹം പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. ഇപ്പോഴത്തേക്കാൾ കുറെക്കൂടി ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാനുണ്ട്. പൊതുജനാവശ്യം അറിഞ്ഞു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാത്തവരും അഴിമതിക്കാരുമായ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കണം. അതിനു ആരെല്ലാം എന്തെല്ലാം പറഞ്ഞാലും അമാന്തിക്കരുത്. കീഴിലുള്ളവരെ ക്രമപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. സർക്കീട്ടു ധാരാളം ചെയ്യണം. (*Laughter.*) എങ്കിൽ തന്നെ കൃത്രിമികളെ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും കീഴിലുള്ളവരും കൺട്രാക്ടന്മാരും ചേർന്ന് കൃത്രിമംചെയ്തു പണമെല്ലാം അടിച്ചെടുക്കയാണെന്ന് ഈ വകുപ്പിനെപ്പറ്റി പലേ ജനങ്ങളും പറയാറുണ്ട്. കീഴ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ അഴിമതിയിൽ തഴമ്പിച്ചവർ പലരുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ അഴിമതികളെ കൈനിർത്തണം. ജനക്ഷേമം വരുത്തുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ ജാഗ്രതയുണ്ടായിരിക്കണം; ധാരാളം സർക്കീട്ടുവേണം; എന്നുവീണ്ടും പറയട്ടെ. കണ്ടിടത്തോളം കൊണ്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ സംഖ്യകുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ജനപ്രതിനിധിയുടെ നിലയിൽ ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയായിരിക്കയില്ല.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, in making this motion I was actuated by the consideration that, during the general discussion of the budget, certain charges were made against the Chief Engineer in respect of his appointments generally. He had no opportunity then to sufficiently explain the charges made against him. It was pointed out, during the course of the general discussion of the budget, that he was partial in respect of punishments meted out to his subordinates and that in one or two instances he was partial in his appointments also. It was to give him the advantage of an opportunity to explain to the satisfaction of the House that he was absolutely innocent in these matters that I brought forward this motion. I hope Mr. Natesa Aiyar would not imagine that the attack was directed against appointments made by him alone. Our object was to point out that there are inequalities in the matter of selection for the appointments and to show that there exists an inequality in the proportion of members of different communities in his Department. Mr. Natesa Aiyar has been able to point out that, during the course of his administration, he has not been guilty of the charges made against him in the matter of selection. But we find from the *Civil List* that there is a large proportion of Brahmins in the department and it would be gratifying to see that in future, if selection is to be made equal opportunities will be given to other communities as well. It was pointed out, during the course of the discussion last day, and I need not labour the point further, that the

choice for appointments must be made evenly from the different communities. I hope Mr. Natesa Aiyar will keep these matters in view and will not give room for complaint with regard to appointments and punishments in future.

The main work with which the Department is to concern itself does not certainly end with appointments of officers. The Engineering Department has to concern itself with the work of communications and buildings and so many other matters in which we are so deeply interested. Mr. Natesa Aiyar is the first Indian to be appointed as Chief Engineer and we are very glad that he is taking particular interest in the matter of improving the work of the Department. (Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: *Hear, hear.*) If there was any doubt as to his partiality, there was given an opportunity for him to explain and I am glad that he has taken that opportunity to explain to the satisfaction of the House that he has not been guilty in this respect. As I pointed out at the beginning, it was just to give that advantage to him that I brought this motion and personally I am satisfied that Mr. Natesa Aiyar has not been so much at fault as he has been represented to be. With these words, I withdraw the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to second the withdrawal.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have something to say with regard to Mr. M. N. Pillai's observations.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I not second the withdrawal? (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: You want to second the withdrawal? You may do so. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I wish to answer one or two points raised by Mr. M. N. Pillai.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The motion has already been withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The withdrawal has not been accepted by the House and I am a member of the House. I think Mr. Natesa Aiyar may explain the points raised by Mr. M. N. Pillai before the House permits Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai to withdraw the motion. But please be brief, Mr. Natesa Aiyar.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. N. Pillai referred to the re-organisation of the Department effected just before I took charge. Of course, I was consulted by the Government in the matter of the general principles of re-organisation. Mr. Jacob suggested an establishment of seven lakhs of rupees but I advised Government that the present establishment which costs only five lakhs of rupees would be sufficient to run the Department with an expenditure of about Rs. 28 lakhs. The appointments, promotions and recommendations were made by Mr. Everard and I had nothing

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

to do with it. Government sanctioned them without consulting me. I did not expect to be consulted nor were the Government bound to consult me in the matter.

As regards transfers, Mr. M. N. Pillai observed that the Manager was transferred. That was done about five months before I took charge of the Department. It was suggested in the Salaries Committee's report that the place of Manager should be abolished in several of the offices. I think that the Manager's transfer was due to that suggestion of the Salaries Committee and I believe that he was transferred to a better place.

Then, with respect to the transfer of a Brahmin from the Account Office as Superintendent in the Chief Engineer's Office, that was also done before I took charge of the Department. I was not consulted in the matter. I had nothing to do with the appointment of Mr. Panchapagesa Rao. After working in the Department, he found the work very onerous and he wanted to go back to the Account Office if he were not given some allowances. I took that opportunity to put forth the interests of men in my Department. The question of interchangeability was understood by the Account Officer in a sense different from that in which I understood it, and in the sense in which I had recommended that principle to be introduced in the re-organisation G. O. So I had to correspond with Government to see that the Superintendents are not always recruited from the Account Office and to see that the claims of deserving men in the Department are also considered. Mr. Rajagopala Rao, who was by head and shoulders above the other claimants to the post, was recommended by me for the post. Mr. Rajagopala Rao had long passed the graduate scale and risen to Rs. 100 and above. Another claimant was Mr. Rama Variar, B.A., who had acted as Superintendent for some time previously. A third claimant was Mr. Thomas B. A., B. L., who was Head Accountant and an Overseas service man. Mr. Rama Variar had been posted to the Account Office and the other two had been retained in the Chief Engineer's Office. I had nothing to do with these postings.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did Mr. Rama Variar go away to the Account Office of his own accord ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): When I became Chief Engineer I found that recommendations had gone from Mr. Everard to Government and the Government in passing orders posted him to the Account Office.

I considered the claims of all the three applicants, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Rama Variar and Mr. Rajagopala Rao, and placed the matter before Government. Government gave their very careful consideration to the matter and Mr. Rajagopala Rao was appointed by them to the place.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was Mr. Rajagopala Rao superior to the others ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Rajagopala Rao was considered to be superior to the others not only by myself but also by my predecessors.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was not Mr. Rama Variar Superintendent for more than three years?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): He was acting as Superintendent but was reverted. The whole matter was discussed in the correspondence with the Government.

As regards the Canal Establishment, it is not a fact that I transferred all the Canal officers and posted non-Brahmins after the Redeemer Committee's report. Mr. O. S. Raman Pillai reverted to the service after suspension and he had to be provided for. He was posted to the Quilon Canal Section, reverting Mr. Jacob Joseph who was acting there. Mr. M. A. Narayana Aiyar went on leave from Vaikam and Mr. C. J. N. Pillai, an acting Supervisor at the same station, who would otherwise have had to be discharged, was asked to take his place. The other Canal officers remained in their old stations only and were not disturbed.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are they Brahmins or non-Brahmins?

PRESIDENT: How does it arise?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): May I answer him, Sir?

PRESIDENT: No, it does not arise.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I accept the suggestion that non-Brahmins should be encouraged. From the figures that I quoted, it will be clear that I am giving them preference and that I am not discouraging them. I must say, on the other hand, that I am not encouraging Brahmins as much as I can.

I am thankful to Mr. Kunjitomman for the kind appreciative remarks that he made about me. Of course, I am trying to do as much touring work as possible. In 1098, I was not able to do much touring work because I was the President of the Press Committee which sat from May to July 1923. In 1099, I have travelled to the High Ranges, to the Peermade Subdivision and to the other out of the way taluks.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know how many times the Chief Engineer visited Shertallai?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I think twice, and, if Arukutty is to be included, probably thrice.

I am thankful to Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai for having brought forward the motion actuated by the consideration that the charges made against me might be properly met by me and that he only wanted to give me an opportunity to explain the matter.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know the number of days for which he remained in Shertallai on these two occasions when he visited the place?

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I remained here for a night on one occasion and for an after-noon on the other.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it on account of mosquitoes that the stay in the place was so short?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): No, it was due to want of accommodation. The T. B. was full and I had to go elsewhere on urgent business.

As regards communal representation in service, I know that due representation should be given to the qualified members of all communities. I have statements and statistics always with me for reference. The predominance of Brahmins in my Department is a legacy left to me by my predecessors and I am trying to bring in as many non-Brahmins as possible in the service.

I also thank Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai for his appreciative remarks about the interest that I am taking in the execution of works, communication, buildings etc. I will continue to do so and try to satisfy the members as far as possible.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 342.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

342. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,290 under Direction by Rs. 100.

Motion 343.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I beg to move:—

343. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,290 under Direction by Rs. 100*

കോതയാർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ പ്രാജക്ററിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ശരിയായ വരവു ചിലവു കണക്കുകൾ വച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നും, ആ കണക്കുകൾ ശരിയാക്കിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നും ഉള്ള സംഗതികളെ കൌൺസിലിൻെറയും ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനായിട്ടാണ് ഈ മോഷൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. കോതയാർ വേലകളുടെ ശരിയായ കണക്കുകൾ ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അതിൻെറ പരമാർത്ഥങ്ങളെപ്പററി അറിയാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത പക്ഷം പല തെററിദ്ധാരണകൾക്കും വഴിയായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു.

കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള കണക്കുകൾ ഓരോ കാലത്തേയും ഗവർണ്മെൻറുകൾ ഓരോ മാതിരിയാണ് കണക്കാക്കീട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ സംഗതിയെ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ കണക്കുകൾ കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ തെളിയിക്കാം. കോതയാർ വേലകളിൽ ൧൦൯൯ വരെയുള്ള കണ

ക്കുകൾ അന്നത്തെ അക്കൌണ്ടു ആഫീസർ മിസ്റ്റർ രത്നമയ്യർ എഴുതിയുണ്ടാക്കി ഗവമെൻറിന് അയച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൻെറ ഫലമായി ഇംഗ്ലീഷുവർഷം ൧൯൧൪ മാർച്ചുമാസം ൧൪-ാം൹ ൭൮൦-ാം നമ്പ്രായി എഴുതീട്ടുള്ള പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"His Highness' Government observe that, not only has the Kodayar irrigation Project not yet given any direct return worth mentioning on its capital outlay, but the Government are incurring increased expenditure on account of the working expenses. On the last day of 1088, the capital outlay (as finally revised) amounted to Rs. 77,28,808 on which the Government derived no direct net return. The expenditure incurred in 1088 for the working expenses amounted to Rs. 1,02,097. The loss to the Government on account of the Project, for keeping it working in 1088, was thus Rs. 44,823."

(*Vide* Kodayar Papers Vol. V. Page 162).

കോതയാർ വേലകളിലുള്ള ആദായത്തെപ്പററി ഇങ്ങനെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു എഴുതീട്ടുള്ള പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സിനു അടിസ്ഥാനമായ കണക്കുകളും അതിനെ ആശ്രയിച്ചുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള അഭിപ്രായവും തെററാണെന്ന് അടുത്തകാലത്തു തന്നെ, അതായതു കോതയാർ വേലകളിൽ കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ആദായത്തെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതിനുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള കാൺഫറൻസിൻെറ പര്യവസാനമായി ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്വർഷം ൧൯൧൪-ാം നവംബർ ൧൧-ാം൹ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു എഴുതീട്ടുള്ള പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സിൽ, പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

" The figures then stand thus :—

(1) Savings in remissions Rs. 45,000.

(2) Savings in the expenditure on the old irrigation channels and tanks Rs. 33,000

(3) New irrigation cess on the old wet lands Rs. 27,000.

(4) The irrigation cess on 7,093 acres of dry lands already converted into wet Rs. 49,651.

(5) Assessment on 793 acres of tank-beds already sold and converted into wet lands Rs. 14,643.

(6) New irrigation cess on the 793 acres of tank-beds converted into wet Rs. 793.

Total Rs. 1,70,087.

Deduct on account of annual working expenses Rs. 50,000.

Balance Rs. 1,20,087.

Rs. 4,82,750, the sale proceeds of the tank-beds should, as stated already, go to reduce the gross capital outlay on the works. If this amount be deducted from Rs. 83,48,789 the balance is Rs. 78,66,039 on which the income is equivalent to 1½ per cent. per annum. This percentage is on the conversions of dry lands and the sales of tank-beds that have taken place till now. There is no reason to believe that the sale of 3,000 acres of tank-beds and the conversion of 25,000 acres of dry lands contemplated in G. O. No. 2,845 will not take place. When these sales and these conversions are fully effected, the capital outlay on the Project will be further reduced and the annual revenue will be more. The project is, therefore, not a failure financially."

൧൯൧൪ മാർച്ച് ൧൪-ാം൹ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു എഴുതീട്ടുള്ള പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു കോതയാർ ഇറിഗേഷൺ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്നതിനു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൻെറ കൈയിൽനിന്നും ൪൪,൮൨൩ രൂപാ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നു എന്നാണ്. എന്നാൽ എട്ടുമാസങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കൈയിൽ കിട്ടാൻ ഇടയായ വേറെ ചില കണക്കുകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി നൂററിന് ൧½ വീതം പലിശ നടക്കുന്നതായി സമ്മതിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

എന്നാൽ അതിൽപിന്നീട് ൧൦൯൮ അവസാനംവരെ ൩൮൯ ഏക്കർ കളങ്ങൾ കൂടുതലായി വിളവും ൮൬൯ ഏക്കർ പുതുനിലങ്ങൾ കൂടുതലായി ഉണ്ടാകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നിരുന്നിട്ടും കോതയാർ വേലകളിൽ നൂററിന് ഒന്നുപോലും പലിശ നടക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് ഫൈനാൻസുസിക്രിട്ടറിയുടെ കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജററു പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. ചീഫ്ഇഞ്ചിനീയരുടെ ൧൦൯൮-ലെ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ൧½ ഓളം പലിശ നടക്കുന്നതായി അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെയും ഇവരുടെ കണക്കുകൾ യോജിക്കാതെയാണ് കാണുന്നതു. ൧൦൮൬ മുതൽ ൧൦൯൨ വരെ കോതയാർ വേലകളിൽ പലേ വഴികളിലും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകളും അധികച്ചിലവുകളും കണക്കാക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഒരുവലുതായ തുക ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിലേക്ക് ഒരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി ഇരട്ടക്കരചാനലിനെ എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ ചാനലിൻെറ ഉപയോഗത്തെപ്പററി താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തിനോക്കുമ്പോൾ ചാനലിൻെറ വലിപ്പം ആവശ്യത്തിൽ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്ന് ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഇഞ്ചിനീയരന്മാരുടെ വിദഗ്ദ്ധാഭിപ്രായങ്ങളുടെ ദോഷത്താൽ പ്രാജക്ററിനു പലവിധമായ അധികച്ചിലവുകളും നഷ്ടങ്ങളും വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പലേ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളും പറയാവുന്നതാണ്.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid you are fighting a phantom as to the way in which the charges are adjusted.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Not exactly that. There are so many items which are to be deducted from the capital outlay.

PRESIDENT: Is there any money lost?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Those items should be taken together and deducted from the capital outlay to work out the interest.

PRESIDENT: Government do not recover anything more than the cess.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Certainly, we will be satisfied if the low rate of interest now realised is not made an excuse for enhancing the cess.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that Government have asked for any extra cess or tax.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I shall explain. Many of the people in South Travancore are anxious and it is better to have a correct account.

PRESIDENT: What is correct and what is not correct is a matter of opinion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I request you to hear my explanation.

PRESIDENT: All right, you may explain. I have no objection.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know what this particular motion itself is leading to?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai is complaining that the classification of the various items of expenditure is wrong.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*). It is not exactly the classification of expenditure. I am coming to that.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): May I know whether Mr. Kumara Pillai is agreeable to the Government levying at least 4 or 5 per cent. on the actual capital spent by the Government?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അങ്ങനെ ഒരു കരാറില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Is any useful purpose served then?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്റ്ററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട കുളങ്ങളിൽ പലതിനേയും പലക്കും പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിന്റെ വരവിൽ വലുതായ നഷ്ടം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിനെ ഒരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തത്താൽ തെളിയിക്കാം. ൨൦ ഏക്കറിൽപരം വിസ്താരമുള്ള ഒരു കുളത്തെ ഒരാൾക്ക് ഏക്കർ ഒന്നിനു ൨൫൦ രൂപായ്ക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കുളത്തിന് ഏക്കറിനു ൨൫൦൦ രൂപാവച്ചു ലേലത്തിൽ വിളിക്കേൾക്കാനും പതിച്ചു വാങ്ങാനും ആളുകൾ തയ്യാറുണ്ടായിരിക്കയും ആ വിവരം കാണിച്ചു ആ കാലത്തുതന്നെ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനു പലരും ഹർജികൾ കൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ ഹർജികളെ വകവയ്ക്കാതെ ആ കുളത്തെ ഏക്കറിനു ൨൫൦ രൂപാവച്ചു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതിന്റെ ഫലത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് ഇനി നോക്കേണ്ടത്. ആ കുളത്തിന് ഏക്കറിനു ൨൫൦൦ രൂപാ തരാൻ ജനങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറുള്ളപ്പോൾ ൨൫൦ രൂപായ്ക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തതിൽ ആ വകയിൽ ൪൫,൦൦൦ രൂപാ കുറവുവരികയും ആ തുക കോതയാർ വേലകളിലെ ആകത്തുകയിൽ നിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരികയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിലേക്കും കൃഷിക്കാർ പലിശ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : ൧൦൯൭-ൽ കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്റ്റുവകയ്ക്കു് എത്ര രൂപാ വരവും ചിലവും വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയരുടെ ൧൦൯൭-ലെ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ആ കണക്കുകൾ ഉള്ളതാണ്. കോതയാർ വേലകളുടെ കണക്കുകളിൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള കുഴപ്പത്തെപ്പററിയാണു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നത്. അതുകേട്ടതിൽ പിന്നീടു തൃപ്തിയായില്ലെങ്കിൽ കൂടുതൽ വിവരത്തോടുകൂടി വീണ്ടും പറയാം.

കോതയാർ അണ കെട്ടുന്നതിന് ആദ്യമായി നിശ്ചയിച്ച സ്ഥലത്ത് ഒട്ടുവളരെ പണം ചിലവാക്കിയതിൽ പിന്നീടു ആ സ്ഥലത്തെ മാററിയതിനാൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ചിലവു, വലത്തെ കരക്കാൽ വെട്ടുകയും പിന്നീട് ഉപേക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്തതിൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ചിലവു, ഇങ്ങനെ വിദഗ്ദ്ധാഭിപ്രായത്തിന്റെ ദോഷത്താൽ ൧൦൮൯ മുതൽ ൧൦൯൭ വരെ വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകളെ കണക്കാക്കുന്നതായാൽ അതുതന്നെ ൧,൬൬,൯൬൮ രൂപാ വരുന്നതാണ്. ഈ തുകയെ കോതയാർ വേലകളുടെ ആകത്തുകയിൽനിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതിനു പകരം അതിലേക്കു കൂടി കൃഷിക്കാർ പലിശകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണ് വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതു.

ഈ തുക കോതയാർ വേലകളിലെ ആകത്തുകയിൽനിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് എത്രയോ മുമ്പുതന്നെ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറി ഗവർൺമെന്റിനെ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്.

PRESIDENT : It should not be deducted from the capital outlay.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : Are we to pay the interest for that also ?

PRESIDENT : Such mistakes are unavoidable in a big scheme like this. Cost of investigations, we usually charge to the work itself. And if it is found that a particular thing is a mistake and that is subsequently rectified, all that must go to the capital expenditure.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : Then, I am coming to another point.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*) : കോതയാററിന്റെ വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ള തുകയോ ഏതു എന്നു കാണിക്കാനാണോ മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരപിള്ള ഇതുകൊണ്ടുവന്നത്?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : അത് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം മുഴുവനും ശ്രദ്ധയോടുകൂടി കേട്ടാൽ മനസ്സിലാകുന്നതാണ്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): സമയം വെറുതെ കളയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ സമയം കൊടുക്കരുതെന്നു പ്രസിഡൻറിനോടപേക്ഷിക്കാനാണ് ചോദിച്ചത്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർക്ക് ഇത് ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാനും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള ആളുതന്നെയാണെന്നറിയാമല്ലോ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മറെറാരു പ്രധാനമായ സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു കുളങ്ങളെ ലേലത്തിൽ വില്ക്കുമ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായ കരത്തെ അതിൽപിന്നീടു കുറച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതിയെപ്പററിയാണ്. കുളങ്ങളെ ലേലത്തിൽ വില്ക്കുമ്പോൾ ഏക്കറിനു ൨ ൦ രൂപാ കരം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരുന്നു എന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ. അതിനെ ലേലത്തിൽ വിററതിൽപിന്നീടു ൨ രൂപായായി കുറച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനാൽ പ്രാജക്ററിൻെറ ആദായത്തിനു രണ്ടുവിധമായ നഷ്ടം വരുന്നു. ഒന്നാമത്തെ നഷ്ടം പിന്നീടു കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായ കരം ലേലത്തിനുമുമ്പായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ലേലത്തിൽത്തന്നെ ഏതുയൊ കൂടുതലായ ഒരു തുക കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് ആകത്തുകയിൽ നിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ട തുക വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നു. രണ്ടാമത്തെ നഷ്ടം കരത്തിൽ കിട്ടുന്നതായ തുക കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിൻെറ വരവിൽ ചേർക്കേണ്ടതിൽ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നു.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): ആണ്ടുതോറും ചിലവാക്കുന്ന തുകയുടെ പലിശക്കൂടി ഈ കണക്കിൽ വകവയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ? അതായത് ആണ്ടുതോറും ഒരു ലക്ഷമൊ രണ്ടുലക്ഷമൊ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്; ആ തുകയുടെ പലിശക്കൂടി ഈ കണക്കിൽ വകവയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വലിയ വേലകളിൽ അങ്ങിനെ പലിശകണക്കാക്കാറില്ല. എന്നുതന്നെയല്ല ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വലിയ വേലകളിൽ പലിശയേക്കാൾ ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായി നോക്കേണ്ടത് അതിനാലുണ്ടാകുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെയാണ്. ഈ തത്വത്തെ Famine Commission റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ വ്യക്തമായി വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. സമയക്കുറവുകൊണ്ട് അതിനെ മിസ്റ്റർ രാമകൃഷ്ണപിള്ളയെ വായിച്ചു കേൾപ്പിക്കാൻ ഞാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നില്ല. അത്

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

എൻെറ കൈയിലുണ്ട്. പ്രസംഗം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടു മിസ്റ്റർ രാമകൃഷ്ണപിള്ളയെ ആ ഭാഗം കാണിച്ചുതരാം.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): കോതയാററിലെ വെള്ളം തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർക്കു മാത്രമെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുന്നുള്ളോ? അതല്ല തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ എല്ലാ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): നിങ്ങൾക്കു നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാവുന്ന സംഗതികൾ മറുപടി പറയേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽനിന്നും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ മററു സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്ക് അരിയും നെല്ലും കൊണ്ടുപോകാറുണ്ടോ എന്നു ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനു മറുപടി പറയാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. കഴിഞ്ഞയുദ്ധകാലത്തു അരിക്കും നെല്ലിനും വലുതായ കുറവു വന്നപ്പോൾ തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിന്നും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ മററുഭാഗങ്ങളിലേക്കു ധാരാളമായി അരിയും നെല്ലും കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ട്. തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽനിന്നും മററു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്കു നെല്ലും അരിയും കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു പാസ്സുവച്ചിരുന്നതിനാൽ അതിൻെറ കണക്കുകൾ സൂക്ഷ്മമായി അറിയാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിൻെറ ആകത്തുക ഇപ്പോൾ എനിക്ക് ഓർമ്മയില്ലെങ്കിലും ഒരുവലുതായ സംഖ്യ കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിൻെറ സൂക്ഷ്മമായ കണക്കുകൾ അന്നത്തെ ഗസററിൽ പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൻെറ പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേയ്ക്കും കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): നെല്ലു കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ള ഏതെങ്കിലും സ്ഥലത്തിൻെറ നാമധേയം പറയാമോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ളയുടെ ചോദ്യം കേൾക്കാനിടയായില്ല. എന്താണെന്ന് അറിഞ്ഞാൽകൊള്ളാം.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): ശ്രീമാൻ കുമാരപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ നെല്ലു ഉത്തരവിതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളുടെ നാമധേയം പറയാമോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : മിസ്റ്റർ നാരായണപിള്ള ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർ എന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ഏതുമുതൽ ഏതുവരെയുള്ള ഭാഗമാണെന്ന് അറിയിച്ചാൽ പറയാം.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : ശ്രീമാൻ കുമാരപിള്ള ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞ സമയം എന്തുദ്ദേശിച്ചോ അതുമാത്രം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*) : മൂവാററുപുഴ ത്താലൂക്കിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : അക്കാലത്തു നെല്ലുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ എനിക്കു വേറെ ജോലികഠം ധാരാളമുണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനാൽ അതിനെപ്പററി അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*) : പിന്നെ യെങ്ങനെയാണ് കുമാരപിള്ളയവർകഠം ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നറിഞ്ഞതു്?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : എന്തു വിലവച്ചാണ് നെല്ലുകൊടുക്കുന്നതെന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): എനിക്കു കച്ചവടമില്ലായിരുന്നു. കച്ചവടവുമായുള്ള അടുപ്പവും ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു. അതിനാൽ എനിക്ക് അറിയാൻപാടില്ലാ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Erainel* cum *Vilavankod*): കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിന്റെ കണക്കുകഠം ശരിയാക്കി വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു പറയുമ്പോഠം അതിന് ഇപ്പോഠം ഉണ്ടായ ആവശ്യം എന്താണെന്നു പലരും ആലോചിക്കുമായിരിക്കും. കോതയാർ വെള്ളവരി കൂട്ടണമെന്നുള്ള ആലോചന ഗവർമെന്റിന് ഒരു കാലത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായി എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ൪൪-ായിരത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ ഗവർമെന്റിന്റെ കൈയിൽനിന്നും ചിലവായി വരുന്നതായി കണക്കാക്കിയിരുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വീണ്ടും ആലോചനകഠം ഉണ്ടാകുകയും കണക്കുകഠം പരിശോധിക്കയും ചെയ്തപ്പോഠം മുൻ കണക്കുകഠം തെററാണെന്നും ൧൦൦-നു ഒന്നരവീതം പലിശനടക്കുമെന്നു കാണുകയുംചെയ്തു. കുളങ്ങഠം പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുക, കുളങ്ങഠം വിററതിൽ പിന്നീടു കരം കുറവു ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുക, മുതലായ പലേ സംഗതികളിലും കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിന്റെ

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

വരവിനു വലുതായ നഷ്ടങ്ങൾ വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജിക്ക് ഈ സംഗതികൾ അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ ദിവാൻജിയും പ്രസിഡൻറും ഒരാളാകയാൽ ഈ സംഗതികളെപ്പററിപറയുമ്പോൾ അനുഗ്രഹത്തിനു ധാരാളം മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ദിവാൻപദം മറെറാരാളിൽ കൈമാറുമ്പോൾ കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിലെ വരവിനു വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങളെപ്പററി അറിയാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. മേശപ്പുറത്തു കാണുന്ന കണക്കുകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി പ്രവർത്തിക്കാനേ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു. ഇതിനെല്ലാം പുറമേ ഏതു കാര്യത്തിനായിരുന്നാലും അതിലേക്കു ശരിയായ കണക്കു വയ്ക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്ന് ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്. വിശേഷിച്ചും സർക്കാർ കണക്കുകൾ പരസ്പരവിരുദ്ധമായി വരുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും നന്നായിരിക്കുകയില്ല. അതിനാൽ ആ കണക്കുകളെ ശരിയാക്കിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്. അതിലേക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറു തയ്യാറാകുമ്പോൾ മേൽ വിവരിച്ച പലവിധമായ അഴിമതിച്ചിലവുകൾ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ വരേണ്ടതും അവ കോതയാർ വേലകളുടെ ആകത്തുകയിൽ നിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതുമാകുന്നു.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to second Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion. It may be asked how the question is relevant. I may, at the outset, explain that it is relevant in the sense that, when the time comes for the distribution of money to different parts of Travancore by the Public Works Department, various questions regarding the claims of particular taluks and particular localities will arise. It has been said and has been maintained for a very long time that Travancore finances—

PRESIDENT: Order, order.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not talk if my friends here are talking when I am in possession of the House. For, I would not be able to make myself heard unless my friends are kind enough to allow me to speak.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether Mr. Velu Pillai is aware that he has no right to ask us to listen to him?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want people to listen if they cannot benefit by the discussion. (*Laughter.*) But I wish members of this Council to hear me and to see for themselves whether what I say is right or wrong. I want them only to listen. I know that Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai has read in the Parliamentary Reports that a member has

got a right to speak but not to be heard. I know that as well as Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Order, please.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The question of contribution is important in this way that it is because of the mistakes in calculations that have been spectacularly demonstrated by my friend Mr. Kumara Pillai that there is an impression abroad that the Travancore Government was spending large amounts on the Kodayar Project. Sir, I do not hold any land near the Kodayar. I have not an inch of ground anywhere near the Kodayar nor am I prejudiced against the claims of other parts of Travancore. I may remind the House, for their kind consideration, that, when I moved a resolution on the maintenance of irrigation works, I said that North Travancore and Central Travancore should be assisted as well as South Travancore. So, it is not from any narrow or parochial spirit that I am supporting the motion. The original calculations regarding the cost of the Kodayar project were found to be incorrect and the Government deviated from the policy which was laid down by them. On account of the mistaken action taken by the Government, these calculations were belied and the Kodayar Dam itself was built at a different place. Expenses were incurred.

PRESIDENT: Will you please explain how the calculations were belied?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): That is what Mr. Kumara Pillai has shown by figures.

PRESIDENT: That is a problematical business. They are not the actual realisations from the sale or registry of tank-beds. All that he says is that a particular tank-bed was worth Rs. 2,500 per acre and that it was registered for Rs. 250 per acre, and so, the capital account should be credited with the balance. That is purely a problematical affair.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am sorry to differ from the President, but I must differ. Because, to my mind, it appears that Mr. Kumara Pillai is perfectly correct.

PRESIDENT: I am mentioning it simply to show that the matter is very debatable.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I thank you, Sir, for the explanation, as I may be able to explain myself better. The Government expected some money. The Government said that they would spend so much and they calculated the profit. At that time, it was anticipated that certain tank-beds, if sold, would bring in so much revenue as *tharavila*, so much by way of compensation and so much by way of additional taxes which may be imposed on lands which were dry before the Project and which would become wet after the Project. Now, if land was registered in disobedience of the policy laid down by the Government, I must say that it is a thing for which the people of South Travancore should not be held responsible.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Does Mr. Velu Pillai know that the estimates and expectations in regard to any large Project are not actually realised?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I realise that, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Actual realisations are different from expectations.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I quite realise that, Sir. My answer is only this. If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Council that Government did everything in their power to find purchasers and to realise the maximum amount, I am prepared to withdraw my criticism. But a different state of facts has been mentioned by Mr. Kumara Pillai. If land was proclaimed to be sold at so much tax per acre and intending purchasers were unwilling to spend a large amount of money because of the increased assessment—if the tax was reduced behind their back after the registry took place—if the Government have done in the manner that has been pointed out by Mr. Kumara Pillai,—they alone are liable, and there is no use in coming down upon them on the strength of benefits which they do not derive.

PRESIDENT: It is a thing which should be examined in each case of registry.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I accept Mr. Kumara Pillai's figures. I am sometimes sceptical about the accuracy of figures. But with the little training in statistics that I have had and with the experience of Mr. Kumara Pillai's method of collecting figures, with which I am satisfied, I am prepared to accept his figures and I can challenge any member of this House to say that these figures are wrong. Mr. Kumara Pillai is very good at figures.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Hear, hear.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am referring to this for an important purpose. If the calculation of profit is due to intentional violation of privileges, the inhabitants of a particular locality should not be made to bear any loss. I do not ask for any exceptional treatment for South Travancore. If a considerable sum of money has been spent in South Travancore, adequate amounts may be spent in other parts of the country also. Now, if there is a proper account and if Government realise that a work like this, which is for the permanent benefit of the country, is necessary, they are obliged to spend large sums. If all these facts are realised, there is no necessity for any issue being joined by myself and by any gentleman on this side of the House.

PRESIDENT: A number of things have been assumed. You have to realise that this is a project.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Yes, so that finally we might have some idea as to what amount has been spent

on the Kodayar Project. Let us not be under any delusion. That is the first point. Secondly, if the other parts of the country require money and if a similar work could be started with advantage, I am certainly for devoting as much money as the Government can command. But Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion is absolutely tenable. In the first place, it will minimise the discussion between the respective claims of North and South Travancore. There is no difference in interests between North and South Travancore worth the name. It is a question of sentiment and people come—

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether, after an enquiry, if it is found that more money was spent, will South Travancore be prepared to contribute that sum by way of additional taxation?

PRESIDENT: To the exchequer?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): A contract entered into on this question between Mr. Nidiry and myself will not be a binding contract. It is a question which is hypothetical which according to the rules of the Council the members are not expected to answer. So, I cannot answer him. I have one advantage. In the previous motion, as in other motions, the member in charge of the Department was not able to do his duty to the public, because he had to vindicate his own private character. If he is obliged to vindicate his private character and his official position in the same breath it is impossible. I am making these observations because of the speeches made by Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman and Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. References were made to the fact that they had absolved the Chief Engineer. It is rather a patronising way of saying that they have absolved the Chief Engineer. At any rate in the discussion of this question, the Chief Engineer's part is clear and his labours are lighter. I have attempted to show how Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion is absolutely necessary. It will prevent mistakes, misconceptions, and I will also say, it will prevent misunderstanding between the men of the north and the south and help the Government in doing their duty and facilitate the speedy disposal of business in this Council, if they accept the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I support the motion by making a few remarks. In my taluk, Sir,—I have written to Mr. Natesa Aiyar about it—there is the necessity of opening a road. The road was originally contemplated to be opened, so that the Ambalapuzha taluk may be connected with the Tiruvalla taluk on the other side. I consider that road absolutely necessary, and if the Chief Engineer is so good as to take it up, it will prove highly useful especially at a time when owing to floods people in the locality are hard put to it. With these few observations, I support the motion. (*Laughter.*)

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

കോതയാററണയ്ക്കു വച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കണക്കിൽ ചിലവു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള പണത്തിനു ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ള കണക്കു വന്നിട്ടില്ലെന്നോ അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം കൂട്ടതലാക്കിട്ടു കണക്കെഴുതിയെന്നോ ഉള്ളതു ശരിപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതാവശ്യമാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ എല്ലാ ആളുകളുടെയും—ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാരുടേയും—പണമാണ് അവിടെ ചിലവു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതിന്റെ കണക്കു ശരിയല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ല. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പല പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ പണം ചിലവു ചെയ്യാനുണ്ട്. ആ ചിലവുകൾ ചെയ്ത് അതിനെങ്കിലും ശരിയായ വിധത്തിൽ കണക്കു വയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെന്റു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇതിനെക്കാൾ കൂട്ടതലാദായം പ്രതിവത്സരം കിട്ടുന്ന പല വേലകളും ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ചെയ്യാനുണ്ട്. ഒരു വലിയ വേലയ്ക്കു ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ഒട്ടെല്ലാം പാഴ്ചിലവായിട്ടും വരാം. ഇനി ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾക്കു വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ചിലവു ചെയ്തു കഴിഞ്ഞതിനുമേൽ വേണം തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ചെലവു ചെയ്വാൻ. അത്യാവശ്യമായ വേലകൾ പലതും ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനു സന്ദേഹമില്ല. തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽനിന്നും നെല്ല് വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലയയ്ക്കുന്നു എന്ന് എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ പറഞ്ഞതു ശരിയായിരിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ എനിക്കു മററു വിധത്തിൽ ആ സംഗതി അറിവില്ല. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽനിന്നു നെല്ല് മധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആലപ്പുഴ മുതലായ തുറമുഖങ്ങളിൽ വരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ കൃഷിസേചനവേലകൾ നടത്തേണ്ടതിന്റെ ആവശ്യകതയെ കൌൺസിലിൽ ഞാൻ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ വഴിയായും മററും അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ മൂവാററുപുഴത്താലൂക്കിൽ പെരിയാററു തീരത്തു തരിശായി കിടക്കുന്ന ആയിരത്തിലധികം ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒരൻപതിനായിരമോ അറുപതിനായിരമോ രൂപാ ചിലവുചെയ്താൽ അവ ഒന്നാംതരം നിലങ്ങളാകും. ഇതു പോലെ ചുരുങ്ങിയ തുക ചിലവു ചെയ്തു വളരെ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ നെൽകൃഷിക്കുപയുക്തമാക്കാം. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പ്രത്യേകം പതിയേണ്ടതാണ്. കോടിക്കണക്കിനു കോതയാററണയ്ക്കും മററും തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൃഷിയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കായി ചിലവു ചെയ്തിരിക്കേ ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനെങ്കിലും വടക്കും ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരപിള്ളയെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I beg to support the motion.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I did not hear what Mr. Sankara Menon said. The subject matter of Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion is a matter relating more to the Accounts Department of the Government than to the Chief Engineer's. I think that Mr. George may be asked to have his say on the matter.

PRESIDENT: Have you anything to say yourself?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Kumara Pillai referred to records and stated that Mr. Ratnam Aiyar came to the conclusion in March, 1914, that the Kodayar Project did not pay any return, but that, in November of the same year, the special conference appointed by the Government reported that it was paying 1½ per cent. interest on the capital outlay and would be paying more in subsequent years.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): There are the Government Proceedings and this information is found in the records.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): He referred to several items making up the income and mentioned a sum of Rs. 45,000, which was a saving under remissions used to be given in previous years, as one such. This is not being taken into account now and the matter has to be verified. Of course, the realisation from the sale of tank-beds is being credited to the capital outlay, as then decided.

Another item which he mentioned is a sum of Rs. 33,000—the amount spent under maintenance of channels, etc., in the commanded area in pre-Project days. This item is being credited even now.

Mr. Kumara Pillai mentioned that the working expenses debited then were only the maintenance charges. But the outlay on improvements and special repairs has also to be so debited, as is being done now. The expenditure on such improvements and special repairs amounted to Rs. 89,123 in 1098, including a sum of Rs. 53,258 incurred on repairs to flood damages.

For purposes of calculating the return, I deducted the outlay under repairs to flood damages and have shown that the income under the Kodayar Project yielded a return of 1¼ per cent. in 1098.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): May I know whether any portion of the cost of the Chief Engineer's office establishment is debited to the Kodayar Project?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes; proportionately. The expenditure on improvements and special repairs is being gradually reduced. It was only Rs. 26,077 in 1099, and the budget for 1100 is only about Rs. 23,000. As this goes down, the net income from the Project is bound to grow more and more. If the sum of Rs. 45,000, which is the saving under remissions, is also taken into account, the return will easily go up to 1¾ to 2 per cent. on the net capital outlay.

[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

Mr. Kumara Pillai also mentioned that Government were not giving full credit for the real saleable value of the tank beds and that only a nominal tax was being realised on some of the tank-beds sold. These are details which are attended to by the Revenue Department.

PRESIDENT: Are you aware of any such cases where a favourable assessment was imposed?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): This Department is practically ignorant of such cases.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it not his duty to enquire into the responsibility of the Revenue Department with regard to any arrangement about the assessment?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The information about the credit afforded by the sale of tank-beds is being received and the Account Officer makes the adjustments. If Government wish it, I will look into it. With respect to Mr. Kumara Pillai's remarks, I do not think he wanted anything more than correct accounting.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether the accounts of the Kodayar Project have been closed?

PRESIDENT: That can never be.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Some works are still being done and debited to the capital account. The capital account has not yet been closed. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, in supporting Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion, referred to the Ambalapuzha-Tiruvalla road.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyattinkara*): May I know what that has to do with the motion?

PRESIDENT: It is a general cut.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Should not such things appear in a separate motion?

PRESIDENT: It is very difficult to say that.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): When a nominal cut is moved by one member, and several members follow him, each referring to different aspects of the Department, it will be extremely difficult for the official member to reply. And if it comes to a question of vote, so far as the non-official members are concerned, it will be difficult to know on what point the question has to be decided and voted upon.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyattinkara*): Hear, hear.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I think Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai is entitled to take advantage of the opportunity and point out to the Chief Engineer the desirability of attending to the local requirements of his taluk. But

it is something different to suggest that that is a point to which the Chief Engineer must necessarily reply. That is a point which one must take into account.

PRESIDENT: I would not go so far as that. I would not say that the House should take that into consideration when voting on the motion. I do not see how I can exclude its discussion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I explain the position? All that Mr. Kumara Pillai was contending was that the accounts in relation to the Kodayar Project should be rendered correctly. I have no objection to that. It was incidentally suggested by me, not in a spirit of rivalry, but simply as a matter for attention, that there was need for a road in my taluk so that the House may attend to that.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that in that way it will be relevant.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I mentioned it as this was a motion for a general cut.

PRESIDENT: If the Chief Engineer chooses to give information, he may do so.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am also viewing the matter in an impartial spirit, as my South Travancore friends say that such is their wonted outlook. So the Chief Engineer may also repair the roads in my taluk.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I would ask the Chief Engineer whether there have not been mistakes in calculation with regard to some of the works in regard to the Kodayar Project which caused an unnecessary amount of expenditure which might have been saved.

PRESIDENT: Please repeat the question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Chief Engineer be prepared to tell me whether some of the items of expenditure which were incurred in connection with the Kodayar Dam and connected works could not have been avoided?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Of course, the question relates to works done some 25 years ago during Mr. W. Jopp's time. As Mr. Kumara Pillai said, the Right Bank Channel was excavated at a cost of about Rs. 1,75,000 with the good intention of taking water to Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara side. But it was subsequently found that the Reservoir would not be capable of supplying both the Right Bank Channel and the Left Bank Channel. The Right Bank Channel was consequently abandoned and all further attention was concentrated on the development of the Project on the Nanjinad and Edanad side. The cost incurred in cutting the Right Bank Channel stands charged to the capital cost of the Project. The President has already explained that such a charge was legitimate and only to be expected in such a large scheme. There is no question here of work having been done which could have been avoided.

[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am putting another question. What is the quantity of water that the Right Bank Channel was intended to take per second?

PRESIDENT: How does it arise?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I will say how it is relevant. When I put the question I considered it as relevant. If it is not, I am submitting to your ruling.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I do not remember. When Mr. Smith was the Chief Engineer, he went into the question of the abandoning of the Right Bank Channel and recommended that it should be abandoned and that the Tovala Channel which was very promising should be taken up in preference and proceeded with.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are these channels put to the maximum use? To put the question in another way, is the quantity of water let in the channels less or more than the quantity they can take?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): They are strained beyond their carrying capacity. With regard to Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's remark on the Tiruvalla-Ambalapuzha road, I have to state that the road consists of five sections. Of these, the first section from Ambalapuzha to Takazhi has been provided for in the budget for the current year (1100). I have mentioned this during the general discussion. The second section from Takazhi to Edattua is not very easy to construct as it will obstruct the flow of flood water and it will be premature to consider the construction of this portion before the Haripad-Ambalapuzha road is completed. The third section from Edattua to Nirattupuram is a river bank road used by pedestrians, and is being maintained at a total grant of Rs. 300. The portion from Nirattupuram to Chattankari is across a paddy flat, and if the people will give the land free, the road may be made. Negotiations are now afoot to get the land. I have not had a final word from the Division Officer whom I have asked to meet the Secretary of the Tiruvalla-Ambalapuzha Development Union with a view to the handing over of the land. The people have themselves proposed to do the construction work. But the proper procedure would be for the people interested to hand over the land free either by negotiations with the owners or by collecting money from among themselves and to get the land from those unwilling by paying them the money due to them; and the Department would undertake to open the road. The last section is from Tiruvalla to Chattankari. There is at present a road which is cartable. It requires improvement which will be carried out.

I have explained all this in the general discussion. Mr. Kunjitomman, in supporting Mr. Kumara Pillai, wanted more attention to be paid to the needs of North Travancore. This is being done; and as the needs are brought to notice, they will be considered.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്നതുതന്നെ കോതയാർ വേലകളിൽ വളരെ കാലമായുള്ള എൻെറ പരിചയത്താൽ പലവിധമായ അധികച്ചിലവുകളും അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകളും വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായി എനിക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. ആ ചിലവുകളെ ക്രമീകരിക്കയും കോതയാർ വേലകൾക്കു ശരിയായ കണക്കുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട കുളങ്ങളെ വില്ക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിലെ ഇറിഗേഷൺ സൌകര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി അതു വിററുകിട്ടുന്ന തുകയിൽനിന്നും ൫൦൦-ന ൫൦-വീതം ചിലവാക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഇതിൽ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള അഴിമതികൾക്ക് ഒരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തം ഇവിടെ പറയാം. ൭,൦൦൦ ൨ രൂപായ്ക്കു ഒരു കുളം ലേലത്തിൽ വിററു. അതിൻെറ കൃഷിസൌകര്യങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഒരു കാലു വെട്ടുന്നതിനു അയ്യായിരത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കി സ്ഥലമെടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതുകൊണ്ട് എന്തു പ്രയോജനമാണ് ഉണ്ടായതു്? ഒരു കുളം വിററു എന്നല്ലാതെ അതിൻെറ തുക കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിൻെറ ആകത്തുകയിൽ നിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കാനില്ലാതെപോയി. കൃഷിക്കാർക്കോ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനോ പ്രയോജനമില്ലാതെ പോയി.

ഇതു പോലെയുള്ള മറെറാരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തം കൂടി പറയാം. കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട കുളങ്ങളെ പതിതസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു സെൻറിനു ൭-രൂപാവച്ചു സൌജന്യനിരക്കിൽ പതിച്ചു കൊടുത്തു വരുന്നു. ഈ കുളങ്ങളെ ലേലത്തിൽ വില്ക്കുന്നപക്ഷം സെൻറിന് എത്രയോ കൂടുതലായ തുക കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ സൌജന്യനിരക്കിൽ പതിതസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന കുളങ്ങളെ, അവരിൽ ചിലർ എത്രയോ കൂടുതലായ തുകയ്ക്കു മററുള്ളവർക്കു വിററിട്ടുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത് പതിതസമുദായങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കടമയാണ്. അതിനാൽ കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിലെ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു വരുന്ന നഷ്ടത്തെപ്പററി അവർ ഗണ്യമാക്കുന്നില്ല. അവർക്കുവേണ്ടി സൌജന്യനിരക്കുകളിൽ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലം അവർക്കു ഉപയോഗപ്പെടാതെ വരുന്നതു കഷ്ടമാണ്.

PRESIDENT. They cannot sell them; there are rules under the Land Assignment Regulation.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

[President.]

കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിലെ വരവിൽ ഇനിയും കൂട്ടിചേക്കേണ്ടതായ ഇനങ്ങൾ ഉള്ളതാണ. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ചിലവിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത ചില ഇനങ്ങൾ അതിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി കാണുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇതുകളെ വേണ്ടപോലെ പര്യാലോചിച്ച കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ററിന്റെ കണക്കുകൾ ശരിയാക്കേണ്ടത് ഏത്രയോ ആവശ്യമാണെന്ന് ഒന്നുകൂടി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Probably they are old instances.

Do you withdraw the motion?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 344.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Sir, it is a well-known fact that the main source of income is from paddy cultivation. I need not submit that successful paddy cultivation depends entirely on the proper maintenance of irrigation works. In Shencottah taluk, we have got one Supervisor to look after buildings and roads and the maintenance of irrigation works. Formerly, we had one Overseer to look after the construction of roads and one Maramat Superintendent. Now there is only one Supervisor to look after these works, which were done by two persons. I submit to you, Sir, that, on account of the heavy floods, there have been great slips on the Quilon-Shencottah road. The Supervisor had been able to attend only to those slips and he had scarcely time to look after the closing up of the breaches in canals and tanks. My object in bringing this motion is to request Government to appoint two Overseers, one for Public works and the other for Irrigation works. When I mentioned this to the Chief Engineer he assured me that he would make the Supervisor look after the Irrigation works efficiently. On that assurance, I withdraw the motion. I will wait for a year and see the result.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order, Sir. He cannot speak if he has not moved the motion.

PRESIDENT: He is not moving it. He cannot take back his speech. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): A member is entitled to speak only when he moves a motion. If Mr. Karayalar spoke on his motion, it means that he has moved the motion. So technically this House is not in order if at this stage he is allowed to withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: 'Not moving it' is equivalent to withdrawing it.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether a member is not entitled to withdraw a motion with a speech?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My view is that he is not.

PRESIDENT: He cannot. But here the speech has been made, and I think he has to be allowed to withdraw the motion.

The following motion was, accordingly, withdrawn:—

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

344. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,595 for Supervisors by Rs. 1,440.

Motion 345.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I beg to move the following motion:—

345. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,745 for supernumerary Supervisors.

Sir, the policy of appointing officers permanently in service when there is no necessity for them is what I want to speak about. These Supervisors are kept on as supernumeraries.

PRESIDENT: May I point out to you that there is a misunderstanding? These supernumeraries were thrown out during the recent reorganisation. They are kept on as supernumeraries until vacancies arise in which they have to be absorbed.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): So far as one of them is concerned, he ought not to be allowed to be absorbed into the permanent service.

PRESIDENT: He is already a permanent man.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): He is already there. He ought not to be retained and the House cannot vote for his pay. One of the supernumeraries, as I find from the *Civil List*, is Mr. M. A. Narayana Aiyar who was concerned with the *Redeemer* disaster.

PRESIDENT: I must say that it is not in order to discuss whether a particular man should be in service or should not be in service when a budget motion is discussed.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): My motion is to omit the allotment for supernumerary Supervisors. And the House is entitled to vote on the motion.

PRESIDENT: But it is not in order for you to discuss whether a particular officer is entitled to be retained in service or not. That is not in order when a budget motion is being discussed.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): When persons have been found to be guilty—

PRESIDENT: That is exactly what I say. It is not in order to discuss it during budget time. You may move a resolution to the effect that a particular man or a particular set of men should not be retained in service. On a cut in the budget, you are not entitled to speak on it, and I have already ruled so in dealing with a motion sent by you.

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I am speaking only so far as those two officers are concerned. I am not going to discuss the merits of the ruling on that motion. The pay of the Supervisors alone is before the House and, in discussing this matter, I submit, I am entitled to bring to the notice of the House the reasons for the omission of this grant.

PRESIDENT: I must hold that you are not in order and my ruling must be obeyed.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): If that is the ruling, then I am entitled to give the other reasons for the omission of the allotment.

PRESIDENT: You may give other reasons. I have no objection to your showing that these supernumerary men, or any of them, are not necessary for the work of the Department.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): When the Department was re-organised and the total staff has been fixed, I submit that there is no necessity for keeping a number of men in service as supernumeraries.

PRESIDENT: I have no objection to your saying that there is no work for these people. Perhaps you know that these are permanent men who, in the reorganisation, were made supernumeraries. I mentioned that situation and I left it to you to decide whether you would still discuss the motion. Then you said that you were going to discuss the motion with respect to one particular individual on the ground that he should not be kept in the Department. I say that cannot be done.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): With regard to that also, I submit that, when the Department was reorganised, there was no necessity for keeping all these officers. The number was fixed. Therefore others who were in excess of it ought to have been disbanded and there is no justification for paying these officers without adequate work.

PRESIDENT: With regard to that there will be an explanation forthcoming.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): May I ask Mr. Sankara Menon whether he is aware of the fact that after a reorganisation all the supernumeraries are retained until they are absorbed?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I know also of persons who were disbanded.

PRESIDENT: There is not a single instance like that.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I submit, therefore, that the practice of keeping all these persons as supernumeraries and paying them without giving them adequate work—I submit that policy ought not to be continued and these persons ought to be disbanded.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I oppose the motion. When the reorganisation involving heavy retrenchment was given effect to, eight Supervisors who were in the permanent establishment and who could not therefore be discharged were found in excess of the sanctioned strength in the Supervisors' Grade and they had consequently to be treated as Supernumerary Supervisors. But, since this occurred, all the eight Supervisors have been absorbed against the existing leave vacancies and have continued to be so and, though a sum of Rs. 15,000 was provided in the budget for 1098, not even a single cash has been paid out of it as the salary of the Supernumerary Supervisors. Likewise in 1099, a sum of Rs. 6,540 was provided, but there was absolutely no necessity to draw against it. And now, in 1100, a provision of Rs. 4,745 is made as such a provision is necessary for purposes of correct budgeting, but I do not expect at present that any portion of it will be spent. I expect the whole provision would be a saving at the end of 1100 as in the previous two years. Three out of the eight Supernumerary Supervisors have been permanently absorbed into the sanctioned strength against certain permanent vacancies which occurred. A fourth Supernumerary Supervisor has retired from service having reached the age of superannuation. There are at present four Supernumerary Supervisors and, as mentioned already, they have been absorbed against leave vacancies in the sanctioned strength in the cadre of Supervisors. The Supervisors are all in charge of sections, and they have adequate work. I hope, with this explanation, the member would withdraw the motion.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): In the light of the explanation, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 346.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

346. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 71,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 347.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

347. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,14,269 for Executive—Establishment by Rs. 100.

I take it that we are entitled to discuss questions regarding works generally in this motion.

PRESIDENT: I do not understand you.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): There was a ruling in the first session of the Council, and questions regarding Public Works were allowed to be discussed under this head.

PRESIDENT: Was it in regard to inadequacy of works and so on in particular divisions?

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): In regard to all works in the Department.

PRESIDENT: Will you please refer me to that ruling?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: It is only the policy that is generally discussed.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) But there is the ruling.

PRESIDENT: I think the President himself goes back on his own ruling. Anyhow let me see what was said then.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): There are separate motions later on in regard to this when the same thing may be discussed.

PRESIDENT: There are separate motions on works later on.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): [*After five minutes*]. May I know whether we are at liberty to discuss another motion by the time Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai finds out the ruling? (*Laughter.*) It may be taken up subsequently.

PRESIDENT: Well, it is five minutes. If the ten minutes allotted to him is spent it means that he does not make the motion. I think you need not move this motion, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. You will get an opportunity to talk on it when we come to "works" later on.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): With your permission, Sir, I would draw the attention of the House to the several points which I would wish to discuss under this motion. In the first place, I would draw attention to the necessity for a reference being had to population, revenue, state of communication, etc., when money is allotted to works in the various taluks.

My second point is that better attention should be given to communications, drainage and minor irrigation in North Travancore and that a less amount should be spent on account of buildings. Of course the policy has been recognised by the Government that less and less amounts should be spent upon buildings and more and more spent on communications.

My third point is with regard to the preparation of estimates. Every question necessary for making the final estimate should be considered before the estimates are sent up.

PRESIDENT: What is that, please?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): All points requiring notice should be considered at the time when the estimates are being prepared. When once sanction is given for the estimate, the plans should not be altered by succeeding Executive Engineers as is generally the case.

With regard to the funds allotted for sanctioned works, sometimes these funds are held back so that works are not continuously being pushed on.

Another point I wish to say is that there is long delay in the completion of works undertaken by the Department. For instance, I will draw the attention of the Chief Engineer to numbers 126, 127 and 119 in the detailed budget. I believe that the work was started in respect of these in 1914 and 1915, and though several years have elapsed the works are still progressing and have not yet been completed. In respect of sanctioned works, I may be permitted to point out that these works generally take much time to begin because in certain cases lands will have to be acquired and necessarily the preliminaries consume a lot of time, so that works really begin to be started only a long time after the scheme is sanctioned. Some provision should be made in these cases so that the acquisition of lands and other preliminary works, should be gone through as expeditiously as possible.

Then another point I wish to note is that the major portions of the funds allotted are generally spent towards the latter portion of the year. During the budget discussion in 1097, it was pointed out that an Advisory Committee should be appointed to consider the question of sanctioned schemes for the year. One of the members—I believe it was Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai—pointed out that it would be well to have an Advisory Committee so that they might decide as to what were the works that were most urgently needed in the different taluks of the State. Mr. Mammen Mappillai pointed out that it was well to have a programme of work so that the more urgent of the works might be undertaken and pushed on before the other works were taken up. I believe these questions are being considered.

With respect to ryots' roads, it was pointed out during the last year's session of the Popular Assembly that the rules did not work very well because it was very difficult to form ryots' Associations, so that practically the rules were not beneficial to the people and Government promised that these rules would be amended. This question, I would submit, is very important and should be taken up as soon as possible.

With regard to the present system of giving contracts for works, it was pointed out during the budget discussion in 1097 that it would be better if contracts for maintenance works were given to local people so that the money might be spent more usefully than now. The Chief Engineer then pointed out that the contractors were not forthcoming and that it was very difficult to find local people willing to take up the work. My submission with regard to this matter is that this is because there is not sufficient publication of the fact that contracts will be given to the local inhabitants, and also because supervising officers are not sympathetic towards contractors. In several cases we find that there are people who are ready and prepared to take up the contract but it is very difficult to get

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

on with the supervising officers because they manage to find fault with these contractors in season and out of season, so much so that respectable people find it very difficult to deal with them. There is also another reason why contracts are not taken by respectable people. Part payment is not made even though works are pushed on very well. It is very difficult to get payment from the Department because so many objections are raised and auditing itself takes so much time to finish. Naturally the contractors are put to very great difficulty in getting their money after the work is completed. It is on account of these difficulties that several people are unwilling to take up the contracts.

With regard to agricultural improvements, I have to point out that the question of drainage is far more important in the northern taluks of the State than that of irrigation.

Several of these cases have been mentioned in the Popular Assembly and I need not again refer to the particular cases which have been brought to the attention of the Government. These are some of the points I wished to emphasise. But as I have hardly time to go into all these in detail, I do not mean to discuss the questions any further.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I support the motion. I think there ought to be better communications in North Travancore. I was very glad to hear from the Chief Engineer that he is paying his attention to this matter. I have always said that the superior staff of the Engineering Department is overmanned. For example, take Trivandrum. We have one Chief Engineer on the spot, and two Executive Engineers.

I was in the P. W. D. Committee and I was able to know a great deal of the work.

PRESIDENT : P. W. D. Committee?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : The Workshops Committee.

PRESIDENT : I thought that question was raised by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai and answered!

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : What are the works after all? There are two Executive Engineers, Supervisors and two Assistant Engineers and so on. And after all what is the work that is going on? I will just give an instance as to how the work is progressing. There was a culvert which collapsed near the St. Joseph's School. That was about four or five years ago. They put up a little fence round that culvert and it was supposed that no carriages could go close to it. It disappeared and carriages were driven over the culvert. And sometime after that another fence was again put up and this fence also disappeared. The culvert is still under repair!

Similarly about the road in Pattukunnu near the burial ground. They made an attempt to widen it. In doing so, they brought in big boulders and kept them there obstructing the passage. After one year they removed these stones. That is a dangerous portion of the road. Very often I was in danger of being run over by cars and buses. My jutka was nearly smashed once. Nothing whatever has been done; not even a danger post is put upon the road.

Take Petta, near the Police Station, the road is dangerous to travel on. Without exaggeration, I may say one-third of the road is with metal. Everything is in a pell-mell condition. I do not know, Sir, whether your motor car has not been punctured. I have twice written in my paper about this. But no attention seems to have been paid. It is all like pouring water on a ducks' back. There is a puddle on the other side of the road. So when a motor car comes, either you have to jump into the puddle or find your way on the heap of metal.

I lived in the time of Mr. Barton when he was the Chief Engineer. We had then only two Executive Engineers, one in Quilon and another in Kottayam. Things were going on very well indeed. As I said the other day, there is the Public Offices edifice in front of which is Sir T. Madhava Row's statue looking at this grand building in wonderment and amazement. There is the Museum; they were all put up under the direction of the Chief Engineer by a Supervisor and Mr. Appavu Pandit who had very little knowledge of the theodolite. Beautiful buildings were then put up.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In regard to contracts, I think works generally begin only about the middle of the year. After all the rigmarole, the best portion of the year is lost. It is in the dry portion of the year that culverts and bridges have to be built. The best portion of the year pass away, and it is during the monsoon as a rule that all these works are started. When work is going on on one side, on the other side rain is washing it off. What I would propose is to engage proper contractors who have a thorough knowledge of engineering. I am sure firms like Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield will be very glad to take up such works. You may have got to pay them a little more; but I am sure, work will be properly done. We want substantial work and our money's worth.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, I have found it out. It is on page 769 where the ruling is found.

PRESIDENT: That relates to a question of policy. It does not relate to the discussion of particular works.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ചില റോഡുകൾ വെട്ടുന്നതിനു ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെല്ലാം കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

പൂൎത്തിയാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ആരംഭിച്ചവ കൂടാതെ ഇനിയും പല റോഡുകളും വെട്ടേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. മററുള്ള ഭാഗങ്ങളിലെപ്പോലെ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഗതാഗതവിഷയത്തിൽ സൌകൎയ്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരേണ്ടതു ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ധൎമ്മമാണല്ലോ. ഇപ്പോൾ മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽനിന്നും ഇവിടെ വരുന്നതിന് മദ്രാസിൽ പോകുന്നതിലധികം ധനവ്യയവും സമയവും ചെലവിടേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കൂടാതെ ആറിലധികം വാഹനങ്ങളിൽ കയറിയേ ഇവിടെ എത്താൻ സാധിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറുകാരായ അംഗങ്ങൾക്ക് അവിടെനിന്നും തിരിച്ചു ഈ രാജധാനി പട്ടണത്തിൽ എത്തി കാൎയ്യങ്ങൾ നിവഹിച്ചശേഷം അന്നുതന്നെ തിരികെ സ്വഭവനത്തിൽ മടങ്ങിയെത്തുവാൻ വേണ്ട സൌകൎയ്യങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ട്. ഞങ്ങൾക്കതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ദക്ഷിണതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേയും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേയും ഞങ്ങളുടെ മാന്യ സ്നേഹിതന്മാർ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കാൎയ്യത്തിൽ അനുകമ്പയുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എൻെറ വിശ്വാസം. എന്നാൽ വടക്കോട്ടുള്ള റയിൽവെ മുമ്പു തുറക്കണമെന്ന ഒരു പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്ന അവരുടെ അനുകമ്പയെ പ്രത്യക്ഷമാക്കുവാൻ നിയമം അനുവദിക്കാത്തതല്ലോ കഷ്ടം തന്നെ. മെയിൻ റോഡെങ്കിലും ടാറിട്ട ബസ്സ് പോകത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഉടനെ നന്നാക്കി തരണം. മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ മുതലായ താലൂക്കു നിവാസികൾക്കു തലസ്ഥാനനഗരമായ ഇവിടെവന്ന് ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലേയും കാൎയ്യങ്ങൾ സാധിക്കുന്നതിനോ ഹൈക്കോടതിയിൽവന്ന കാൎയ്യങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനോ ഗതാഗതസൌകൎയ്യത്തിൻെറ അഭാവം നിമിത്തം ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന പ്രയാസങ്ങളെ ഗവൎമ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം സ്മരിക്കണം. നീതിന്യായംപോലും ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ലഭിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന താലൂക്കിൽതന്നെ റോഡുകൾ വളരെ കുറവാണ്, രണ്ടു മൂന്നു റോഡുകൾ മാത്രമേ അവിടെ ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു. ഞാൻ മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ധാരാളം സഞ്ചരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. മററു പ്രദേശങ്ങളെ താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങളെ ഗവൎമ്മെൻറു തീരെ ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ തോന്നുന്നു. ഉത്തര തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽനിന്നും ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യ നികുതി തരുന്നുണ്ട്. റയിൽവേ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഇടനാടുകളിലുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളിൽകൂടി ഉടനേ തുറന്നുതരണം. ഭൂപടത്തിൽ കാണുന്നതുപോലെ മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, മീനച്ചിൽ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകൾ കായലോരത്തുനിന്നും വളരെ ദൂരത്താണ് കിടക്കുന്നത്. മദ്ധ്യത്തുള്ള ചെങ്കോട്ട താലൂക്കും കായലോരത്തുനിന്നും ദൂരെത്തന്നെ; എന്നാൽ അവിടെ റയിൽവേയുണ്ട്, ഗതാഗതവിഷയത്തിൽ അതിനാൽ അവിടെ

അസൌകൎയ്യമില്ല. പടിഞ്ഞാറൻ തീരങ്ങളിലേക്ക് ഇനിയും അധികം ആളുകൾ കുടി ഏറാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇനിയും സ്ഥലം വൎദ്ധിക്കണം. അതിനു സമുദ്രം മാറുകയൊ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇനിയൊരു പരശുരാമൻ വന്നു സമുദ്രത്തിൽനിന്നു ഭൂമിയെ ഉദ്ധരിക്കയൊ വേണമല്ലോ. ഇപ്പോൾ ആളുകൾ മലയോരങ്ങളിലേക്കാണ് കുടി പാൎക്കാൻ തിക്കികയറി വരുന്നത്. റിസൎവിൽ നിന്നും ഭൂമികളെതിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ചുരുപ്പുനിലക്കമ്മറികൾ ഉത്സാഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. തരിശുസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പ്രതിവത്സരം പതിച്ചു ജനങ്ങൾ കുടിയേറി ദേഹണ്ഡിക്കുന്നു. ഇതെല്ലാം ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഉൾഭാഗത്തുകൂടിയാണ് റയിൽവേ തുറക്കേണ്ടതെന്നു വ്യക്തമാകും. കായൽതീരങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു കെട്ടുവള്ളത്തിൽ ൧൦ ടൺ ഭാരം കയററി ദിവസം വൃ അണാ കൂലിയുള്ള ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ കൂലിക്കാർ ഊന്നിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകും. അതിനാൽ റയിൽവേ വന്നാലും അവിടങ്ങളിൽ സാമാനങ്ങൾ വള്ളങ്ങളിൽതന്നെയേകൊണ്ടുപോകൂ. ഉൾഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ കാളവണ്ടിയിൽ അര ടൺ ഭാരത്തിലധികം കയററാൻ പാടില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവിടെ റയിൽവേ തന്നാൽ സാമാനങ്ങളെ റയിൽവഴി കൊണ്ടുപോകാനെ ഇടയുള്ളു. ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ അതായത് മെയിൻറോഡിനടുത്തുകൂടിതന്നെ റയിൽവെ തുറപ്പിക്കണം. അതുടനെ വേണം. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഉൾഭാഗത്തുള്ളവരും രാജ്യത്തെ ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവരാണെന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ഇനിയെങ്കിലും പ്രവൃത്തികൊണ്ടു വേണ്ടപോലെ കാണിക്കണം. നികുതിയും ഞങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറു നല്ലവണ്ണം സംഭരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നത് ഓൎക്കണമെന്നു വീണ്ടും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): I support the motion; and in doing so I join with Mr. Kunjitomman and say that it is true that Mr. Natesa Aiyar has earned the thanks of the people of North Travancore by the interest he has taken in improving the communications there. Of course, this subject of communications in North Travancore, especially in the taluks which I represent, has been the subject of much complaint in this Council, Assembly and elsewhere. There were many roads and other communications which have been sanctioned long ago, but which had been neglected or not been taken up for some apparent reason.

PRESIDENT: You are now talking about the Chief Engineer.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Yes; we are dealing with the Executive staff. Works have now been taken up on a number of roads. Works have been undertaken, for instance, in the Angamali-Manjapra road; Manjapra-Kaladi

[President.]

road; Parur-Ankamali road, and the bridge at Pulikkizh, Todupuzha. I would request that the same progress be kept up and the Chief Engineer be not thinking that we have sufficient communcations now. If he keeps up the progress at the same rate, I think a few years hence we will have almost, if not the same facilities, as in the south. So I have to thank him for what he has done on behalf of the constituency to which I belong. I request him to continue the same progress that he is now making.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I also support the motion and in doing so—

PRESIDENT: The time for the discussion has expired. I am sorry I cannot allow you to go on. It is now 5 O'clock; and under Rule 49 (3), I have to place before the House all the outstanding Demands. I shall put the Demand for the Public Works Department.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 28·25 lakhs be granted under Demand XX--Public Works Department.

The grant was made.

Motions 348 to 388.

The following motions lapsed on account of the expiry of the time allotted for the voting of Demands:—

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY:

348. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,14, 269 for Executive establishment by Rs. 100.

[To discuss the reduction of a sub-Engineer posted as Superintendent, Guest House.]

MR. C. SANKARA MENON:

349. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,420 for repairs and maintenance of travellers' bungalows by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

350. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,060 for lighting by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

351. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for constructing a new building for the Stamp Manufactory and Mint at Trivandrum (Item No. 24) by Rs. 10,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

352. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,470 for reconstructing the stair-case leading to the District Court chambers, Nagercoil and rebuilding the compound wall (Item No. 33) by Rs. 2,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

353. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for constructing a second class Police Station at Pulinkunnu (Item No. 34) by Rs. 4,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

354. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for constructing quarters for Sub-Inspector of Police at Udumbanshola (Item No. 35.)

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

355. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,200 for pr viding additional accommodation to the Police Commissioner's Office, etc. (Item No. 37).

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

356. To reduce the alloment of Rs. 20,000 for constructing a new College Hostel, Trivandrum, (Item No. 41) by Rs. 10,000.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

357. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for constructing a new College Hostel Trivandrum, (Item No. 41) by Rs. 10,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

358. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for constructing Science Laboratory in His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Arts (Item No. 42) by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

359. To omit the the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for structural alterations to His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Science (Item No. 43).

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

360. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,300 for providing additional accommodation in His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Science (Item No. 44).

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

361. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for constructing the English High School for boys, Nagercoil (Item No. 46) by Rs. 20,000.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

362. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for constructing the English High School for boys, Nagercoil (Item No. 46) by Rs. 20,000.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF :

363. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 25,000 for the Alleppey Shertallai Canal (Item No. 49) by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

364. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for constructing semi-permanent sheds for the use of the official and non-offical members of the Legislative Council (Item No. 12).

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

365. To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,700 for acquiring K. D. H. P. Co's rice mill at Marayur (Item No. 55).

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

366. To omit the allotment of Rs. 11,000 for the purchase of the property of the Friend in-need Society, Trivandrum (Item No. 58).

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

367. To omit the allotment of Rs. 11,000 for the purchase of the property of the Friend-in-need Society, Trivandrum (Item No. 58).

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

368. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,73,280 for buildings—original works—by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

369. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,88,880 for original works under communications by Rs. 100.

MR. JOHN MACKIE :

370. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,88,880 for original works under communications by Rs. 50.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

371. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,55,900 for maintenance or annual repairs under communications by Rs. 100.

[President.]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

372. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,44,780 for communications by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

373. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 92,660 for miscellaneous public improvements by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

374. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 19,45,713 for Executive works by Rs. 100.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

375. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,18,729 for Executive by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

376. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,18,729 for Executive by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

377. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,18,729 for Executive by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

378. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 28·25 lakhs by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

379. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 28·25 lakhs by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

380. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 28·25 lakhs by Rs 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

381. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,81,100 for protective irrigation by Rs 100

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

382. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3·35 lakhs under Demand XXI by Rs 100.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON:

383. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3·35 lakhs under Demand XXI by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

384. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 150 for honorarium to Madras Agent by Rs. 50.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

385. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 300 for Sirkar Agent, Tinnevelly, by Rs. 200.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

386. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 200 for Vaikam Municipality by Rs. 10.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON:

387. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,900 for grants to municipalities by Rs. 2,900.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

388. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,900 under grants to municipalities by Rs 10.

DEMAND XXI—ANCHAL DEPARTMENT.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 3·35 lakhs be granted under Demand XXI—Anchal Department.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXII—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. ·48 lakh be granted under Demand XXII—Miscellaneous items.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXIII—LOANS.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5·5 lakhs be granted under Demand XXIII—Loans—Agricultural Loans.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—LOANS.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. ·5 lakhs be granted under Demand XXIV—Loans.

The grant was made.

PRESIDENT: The non-official members of the House will now meet under the presidency of the Deputy President and elect members for the Finance Committee.

The Council was prorogued at 5. 2 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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